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# THE AMERICAN Legion

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For God and Country

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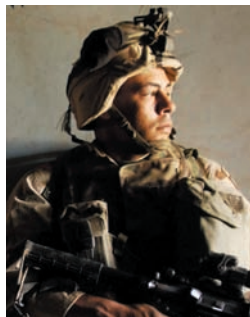
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## A tangled Web

I read the article "The Reality of Cyberterrorism" (April). Why do you suppose terrorists have not attacked our computer systems? I'm sure they've already thought of it. Why should they attack them, when they use computers to converse with each other all over the world? Why would they destroy their means of communication?

— Ralph Capotosto, South Yarmouth, Mass.

## Check the facts

Not least among the troubling assertions in "Designing Men" (April) are the following:

■ The use of human embryos for reproductive cloning and "other medical research" presents "a choice between embryos and ill adults." Not really. Embryonic and fetal stem cells are not the boon the article suggests. They have produced harmful, even disastrous, results. On March 8, 2001, *The New York Times* reports that stem cells from aborted fetuses yielded no overall benefit and in some patients "brought on nightmarish side effects." A Columbia University neurologist who participated in the study called it "tragic, catastrophic." Embryonic stem cells have not helped a single human being. Adult stem cells, on the other hand, are right now curing human illnesses.

■ Regarding cloning, the article quotes a doctor as saying that even if cloning works, "the idea of growing people to harvest organs is not going to happen in a lawful society." The truth is, human organs are already being sold. People who sell body parts of aborted fetuses brazenly publish price lists of their grisly wares. Eyes often go for \$50 to \$70 each.

— Edward W. Atkinson,  
Princeton Junction, N.J.

## Life from life

I spent 30 years in a college classroom teaching biology to non-

majors. The issue of cloning was a significant part of the course. I covered every point of the article "Designing Men." I am in total agreement except for one point. Russell Connors Jr., assistant professor of theology at the College of St. Catherine, makes the same mistake much of the public makes when he states the Catholic church's belief is that life begins at conception. Since the next generation is formed from the fusion of eggs and sperm cells, and they are both alive, life does not begin then. A new person does. Life exists only in cells, and cells come from pre-existing cells. Thus, life comes from pre-existing life.

— R.D. Decker, Richmond, Va.

## Stilted policy

The article "Rope-a-Dope in the Desert" — written by Paul Wolfowitz, who in kinder quarters is referred to as the "Prince of Darkness" — is an absolute disgrace. It is government propaganda in the most blatant form; it contains many errors. I am very disappointed in the *Legion* for printing such rubbish.

In the first paragraph, Wolfowitz links terrorists and Iraq and that this gives us the right to unilaterally and preemptively attack a sovereign nation. This is in violation of the Constitution, decency and morals. He offers no proof of any kind for his assertion. The

fact is that no person to this date has ever produced one single shred of evidence to link Iraq with terrorism anywhere.

In the second paragraph, Wolfowitz claims Iraq has a viable nuclear-weapons program. This is a lie, and Wolfowitz knows it. The United Nations' chief nuclear weapons inspector said, "There is no evidence of any nuclear-weapons program in Iraq." Our secretary of state, president and Wolfowitz have repeatedly said even after weapons inspectors denied the fact that Iraq was using specialized aluminum tubes for centrifugal uranium enrichment processes. This was proven false.

It is one thing to claim "brazen omissions" in the report submitted by Iraq to the United Nations; however, some factual omissions listed would be more than helpful. Unsubstantiated statements are not permitted in a court of law and neither should they be expressed in an article.

— Adrian H. Krieg, Brandon, Fla.

## New McCarthyism

Roger Kimball's April article "Academia vs. America" is an irresponsible piece of journalism. He accuses me and other scholars and institutions of higher learning of being unpatriotic, disloyal and un-American. I find it reprehensible that McCarthyism has re-emerged, in which radical dissent and protest against American imperialism and colonialism is labeled as un-American. This effort to damage the reputations of academicians who dare deviate from Kimball's definition of patriotic correctness has no place in this country.

It is constantly avowed that the military protects our freedoms, including the right to disagree, that through sacrifice Americans may engage in spirited and heated debate on what constitutes a moral and just military role for the world's remaining superpower. Kimball and other conservatives have asserted that the American war against Iraq was a legitimate exercise of military power to confer freedom upon its people. Yet Kimball's sarcastic, ad-hominem attacks suggest he wishes to smother it here at home. Surely

## WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS

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Kimball can engage in mature, non-destructive intellectual discourse with those who do not subscribe to his political orthodoxies.

— Peter N. Kirstein, Chicago

## Best minds

Yes, it's disappointing to see some purveyors of liberal-arts education suppress or belittle some viewpoints. However, if our best minds tend toward certain perspectives, maybe we should take that seriously and accept their leadership rather than demand that college faculties simply parrot the assumptions of the general populace.

Furthermore, what may seem to be "anti-Americanism" may simply be a larger perspective that sees the world from more than the American viewpoint. The beauty of American universities is that they have students from all over the world from whom American students can learn how we look from the outside.

— Donna Detweiler, Albuquerque, N.M.

## Acid flashback

In the article "Academia vs. America," I found what I have suspected for some time to be true. Today's college professors are using their positions as pulpits. They teach their America-hating rhetoric every day to impressionable minds. Kids come out with only one view — the view of someone stuck in the education system for the past 30 years. These ideas about peace and disarmament look good on paper. But the reality is that bad guys are out there who would love to kill any one of us, peacenik or not, just because we are Americans.

If these aged hippies had their way, the United States would get rid of all its weapons, and the world would come under a magical blanket of peace. After all, the only reason these other nations are armed is to keep the big bad United States out. I think it's time to liberate these students from the acid flashbacks of their college professors.

— Paul Martinson, Satellite Beach, Fla.

## Changed world

"Academia vs. America" is a fantastic article. As I write this letter, Nicholas De Genova at Colum-

bia University says he wants the United States to lose the war in Iraq. He also wishes "a million Mogadishus" on American troops. You can't get more warped than that. This guy is teaching vulnerable young minds, and at least some will take it to heart.

Until we get our institutions of learning back on track, these professors are going to be a problem. I feel fortunate to have gone to school at a time when the major goal was to learn. The liberal, left-wing agenda has changed all that.

— Michael J. Hicks, Seattle

## God's blessings

Why is the United States involved in Iraq? The United States didn't have to get involved in World War I, at a tremendous cost in lives and dollars. We didn't have to sacrifice so many lives and assume a large portion of the costs in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Kosovo and Desert Storm. We don't have to be the world's policeman.

However, God has blessed us like none other, as evident in the many liberties we possess. He has been so generous to us in terms of material wealth. Our gross national product, the world's largest, is bigger than the next three combined. Our defense budget is as great as the next 10 countries combined.

Why has the United States been so fortunate? Maybe God is thanking and blessing our nation for being "the world's policeman" and the "arsenal of democracy."

— Milton E. Nelson, Mitchell, S.D.

## No case for war

My father, who was an isolationist, would turn over in his grave if he knew we declared war on a foreign country because we feared it might harm the United States.

— Ron Hoffmann Sr., Maywood, Ill.

## Forgotten families

We can be justly proud of the men and women who voluntarily serve in this nation's armed forces. More than 100 have lost their lives while serving our country in Iraq. We here at home owe them a lot more than the small amount their families will receive from the federal government.

The people of this great nation responded to the Sept. 11 attacks by giving money to the survivors of the World Trade Center tragedy. Why not start a survivors' fund for our brave service personnel? Think how it would help the spouses and children left behind. In addition, it would allow those of us who are too old to help a small bit.

— John W. Etheredge, Trinity, Texas

**Editor's Note** — Shortly after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, The American Legion launched its Sept. 11 Memorial Scholarship fund to provide college money to the children of all U.S. servicemembers who were killed that day and in military operations that followed. Not one dime of the donated money is used for administrative purposes. Tax-deductible contributions to help the children of our war dead can be sent to:

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For more information, contact Robert Caudell at (317) 630-1212 or e-mail [rcaudell@legion.org](mailto:rcaudell@legion.org).

## Our flag first

I am saddened the desk jockeys back at the Pentagon gasped in horror when a U.S. Marine put an American flag over the face of the statue of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad. How many grunts died fighting so that moment could happen? I want coalition soldiers to run American or British flags up the poles in any Iraqi town they capture, for five minutes, out of respect for our fallen soldiers, before running up the Iraqi flag. I'm sure the Iraqis would understand that we must pay respect to those who died fighting to free them from Hussein's oppression.

As for the other Middle Eastern countries, maybe they might finally get the message that business as usual is over.

— Jack Pilgrim, Yountville, Calif.

**Correction:** The Legion News article "Franchise Program Opens Doors to Vets" (March) should have stated that Expetec Technology Services is headquartered in Aberdeen, S.D.



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# Blueprint for troop support



National  
Commander  
Ronald F. Conley  
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*Americans  
look to their  
veterans for  
home-front  
leadership  
during war.*



Out on the grassy ranchland of western Nebraska, the tiny Sheridan County town of Gordon is defined by a sprawling school district and a population that probably doesn't exceed 1,800.

Among those who call Gordon home are 58 local heroes serving their country. All five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces are represented. Some are men. Some are women. As I write this, some are fighting on the front lines in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Others are stateside, awaiting orders. Gordon, Neb., feels what we all feel right now – the tension, the pride, the worry, the honor.

Each servicemember's family there has received a Blue Star Banner, hand-stitched by a local quilting group. Each family also has been introduced to the Family Support Network, which connects American Legion volunteers with those who need help during a spouse's deployment.

"Personally, I feel the Family Support Network is most helpful with moral support," says Sharon Maltbie, Auxiliary Unit 34 president and wife of Gordon Post 34 Commander Darius Maltbie. She also is the mother of a young sailor awaiting deployment in San Diego. "When we communicate with others who really know how we feel, it helps. It is very comforting to know that you are not alone, and other people with similar fears and concerns are only a phone call away."

If you walk into American Legion Post 34 in Gordon, as I recently did, you are overtaken by an atmosphere of support for our troops in their mission to free Iraq from tyranny. A wall of honor inside the post is filled with the names, ranks and branches of their local heroes in uniform. Legionnaires in this small town have worked with businesses, organizations, health-care facilities and, most important, with each other, to build support and keep it. They have sent care packages to

the troops. They have organized pitch-in dinners for Blue-Star families. They have flown their flags. No service family in that community feels alone. Gordon stands as a simple, exquisite example of what this organization is all about.

As wartime veterans, we know the importance of support at home. Some of us understand how difficult it is to be thousands of miles away from our loved ones, in a hostile land, and not feel we have the backing of our citizens at home. That is why we must show our troops now that we stand behind them 100 percent. This is our duty.

I am often asked, "What can Americans do to support our troops?" This is what I say:

■ **Fly the U.S. Flag.** Since the dawn of our republic, no sight is more inspirational to those fighting for America than the Stars and Stripes, snapping in the breeze above a duty station. Encourage your friends, neighbors and fellow citizens to fly their flags proudly.

■ **The Sept. 11 Memorial Scholarship Fund.** The American Legion provides college scholarships to the children of servicemembers killed while on active duty since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. Information about the fund and how to give is available at (317) 630-1212 and at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).



More than 9,000 demonstrators gathered in Bellevue, Wash., to show their true colors in "Operation Support Our Troops." The peaceful rally provided a forum for Americans of diverse interests, ages and backgrounds to express their appreciation for servicemembers deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom and for President George W. Bush. U.S. Navy/Eli Jody Medellin



#### ■ **Family Support Network.**

This Desert Storm-born program connects Legion volunteers with families of active-duty personnel to help them get through difficult times, from routine household help to emotional support. The toll-free FSN hotline is **(800) 504-4098**.

■ **Blue-Star Banners.** Resurrected by the Legion during Operation Enduring Freedom, the banners recognize homes of servicemembers and businesses that support our troops. Information can be found at **www.emblem.legion.org** or by calling toll-free **(888) 453-4466**.

■ **Adopt a National Guard or Reserve Unit.** As deployments increase, so too does the need for volunteer help. Contact your local armory or Reserve center to see where you are needed.

■ **Encourage Troop-Friendly Employers.** When a National Guard or Reserve unit member is deployed, income and benefit shortfalls can occur for the families left behind. Legionnaires can lobby employers to cover the differences between active-duty pay and regular salaries and to keep benefits intact.

■ **Temporary Financial Assistance.** Cash grants are available to qualified military families in need of emergency funds. American Legion department headquarters provide application forms and processing for immediate assistance.

■ **"Support Our Troops" Lawn Signs.** Attractive, double-sided lawn signs show support for our troops and provide fund-raising opportunities. The Department of Indiana, in less than five hours, raised \$12,000 for the Sept. 11 Memorial Scholarship Fund in a recent lawn-sign giveaway. Learn more at **www.emblem.legion.org** or call **(888) 453-4466**.

■ **E-mail the Troops.** You can express support and gratitude to troops overseas by logging onto **www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html** and sending an e-mail.

■ **Donate Blood.** Contact the International Red Cross at **(800) 448-3543** or visit **www.givelife.org**. Other contacts are the Armed Forces Blood Program at **(703) 681-**



In Indianapolis, Legionnaires handed out troop-support lawn signs and accepted donations that generated about \$12,000 in less than five hours for the Sept. 11 Memorial Scholarship Fund. *Steve Brooks*

**8024** or **www.tricare.osd.mil/asbpo**, and America's Blood Centers at **(888) 872-5663** or **www.americasblood.org**.

#### ■ **Community Troop-Support Initiatives.**

From yellow-ribbon campaigns to public support rallies, veterans must partner with businesses, organizations, churches, schools, local government and media to show support. Information can be obtained through the Legion's Internal Affairs division, **(317) 630-1321**.

A new booklet, "How You Can Help: American Legion Programs and Products to Support Troops and Inspire Communities," is now available in a printable version at **www.legion.org** or by contacting the National Headquarters Public Relations division at **(317) 630-1200**. It offers a fully assembled springboard of troop-support ideas. Programs and products can be mixed and matched, implemented individually or collectively, or modified to meet local interests.

Whatever you do to show support for the troops, do it with all your heart. Enlist others around you to do it, too. It is up to us.

Those we have placed in harm's way need to know they can depend on us for support, just as we depend upon them for freedom. You can bet the 58 servicemembers from Gordon, Neb., are fully aware how greatly they are supported and appreciated at home.



# National health-care system

## SUPPORT

**Rep. Jim McDermott**  
D-Wash.



Having cancer or a bad stroke is like having your house burn down; if you're not insured, you're in big trouble. Yet more than 42 million Americans lack medical insurance, even though we have the world's biggest health-care budget and spend twice as much per person as Europeans.

When you don't have insurance you don't get free care – medical bills cause half of U.S. bankruptcies, and 20,000 people die every year because they lack insurance. Having a job is no guarantee of insurance; 70 percent of the uninsured are in working families.

*Our system is inefficient and wasteful, partly because every doctor and hospital has to deal with dozens of insurance plans.*

As a nation, we pay more and get less than countries that have universal health insurance. Our system is inefficient and wasteful, partly because every doctor and hospital has to deal with dozens of insurance plans. A tax credit for the uninsured wouldn't solve this problem – and with the new budget deficit, it's hard to imagine a tax credit big enough to really help people buy private policies. However, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says most Americans would pay less for care with national health insurance than they pay now.

The government is already responsible for 60 percent of all health-care spending in the United States. Through Medicare and Medicaid, the government provides health care to more than 80 million elderly, disabled and poor Americans. It also provides health insurance to its millions of employees and gives tax breaks for employers who provide insurance. Simply redirecting current government spending to national health insurance will cover most of the costs while covering every American.

With national health insurance, doctors, hospitals and nursing homes would remain as independent as they are now. They would have a prompt, guaranteed revenue stream, without the unpredictability of managed care. When every person has health care and when coverage and payment are guaranteed, patients and providers will be better off.

**Rep. Jim DeMint**  
R-S.C.

## OPPOSE



America's system of medicine is a model of skill and innovation, but health care is too expensive for many Americans, and some have no coverage at all. As costs continue to skyrocket, small businesses are dropping coverage for their employees, doctors are being forced out of practice and seniors cannot afford the drugs they need.

These problems will not be solved with a nationalized health-care system that dictates coverage and rations care. Giving third parties control over our health care created the failing system we have today. Removing even more choices from patients will only make things worse.

With socialized medicine, we will all pay higher taxes and be forced to accept fewer benefits. A trip to the doctor will end up looking like a trip to the DMV — long lines and poor service.

Instead, we must work toward a system in which all Americans can purchase their own health plans and choose their own doctors, and seniors and low-income Americans can receive the help they need. Instead of bureaucrats and insurance companies, we must put physicians, nurses and patients back in charge of American medicine. We should trust patients, with their health-care professionals, to decide what is best for them.

The federal tax code penalizes Americans who wish to make their own health-care decisions. One can only receive tax relief for the purchase of health insurance if he buys it through his employer.

We also must work to strengthen Medicare with more choices and better benefits. Seniors who want more coverage should be able to choose an enhanced form of Medicare where private plans compete and offer prescriptions.

President Bush's proposal accomplishes these objectives.

We have a unique opportunity to chart a new path that empowers patients and offers high-quality, affordable health care to all Americans.

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**Washington, DC 20510**  
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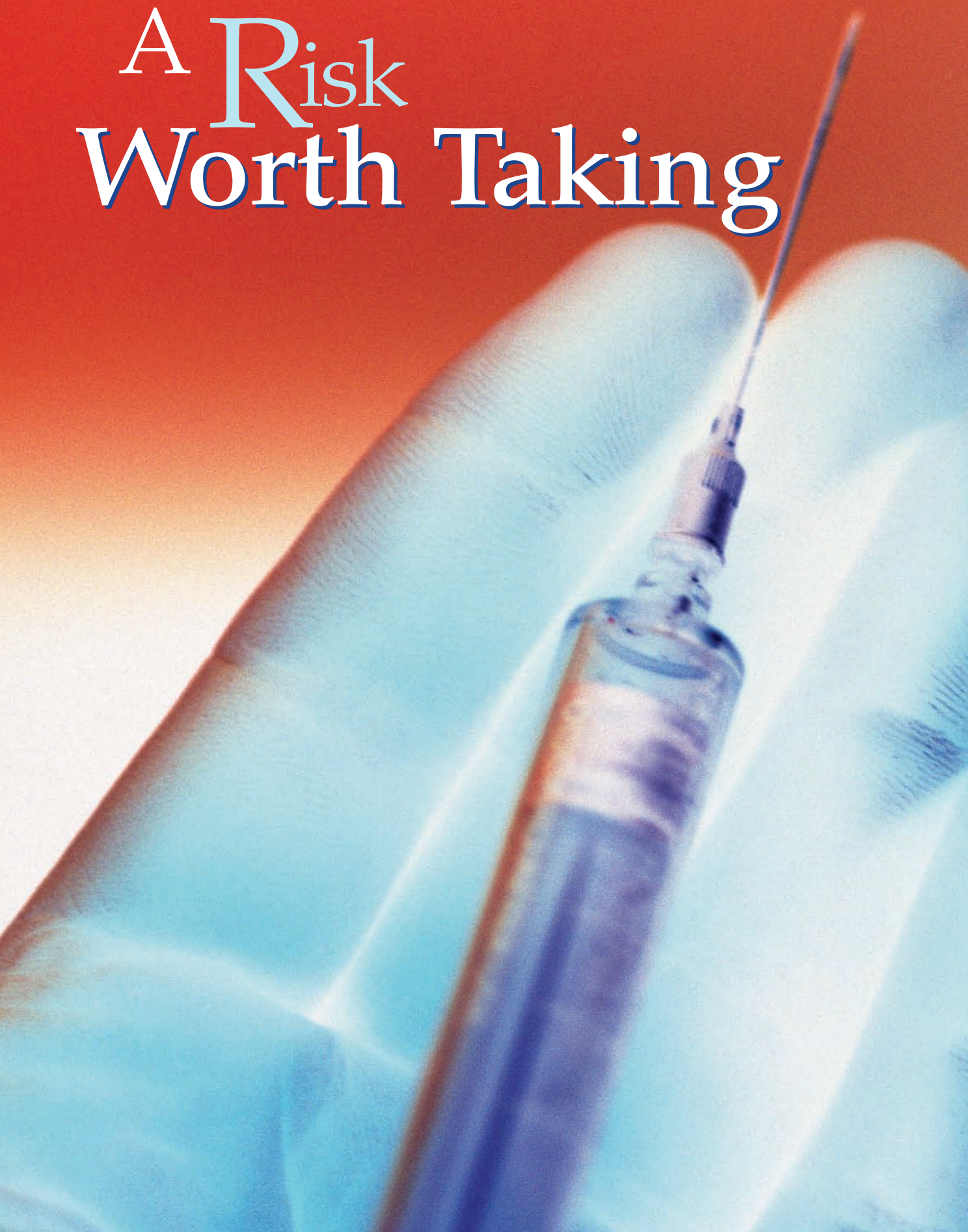
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# A Risk Worth Taking





# *As military personnel protect against anthrax exposure, scientists develop more reliable ways to vaccinate.*

BY SUSAN KATZ KEATING

When the Pentagon announced last June it would resume vaccinating military servicemembers against anthrax, the most notable reactions came from health-care personnel. "The last time around, when the whole force had to get this vaccine, a lot of people acted like we were shooting them up with poison," says an Army medical specialist assigned to Fort Belvoir, Va. Indeed, during that Clinton-administration program, the media reported on frightened servicemembers refusing direct orders to take the vaccine. "Now," the medic says, "people drop by and ask, 'When can I get my anthrax shot?'"

The attitude change can be attributed to several factors. First, a number of civilian scientists, including a panel convened by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Sciences, have deemed the anthrax vaccine "reasonably safe." Second, the project scope has changed considerably.

The immunization program no longer affects the entire defense force. Instead, it applies only to personnel assigned to high-threat postings like the Middle East. Additionally, the Pentagon and other agencies have embarked on intense efforts to address a number of concerns about the vaccine. Furthermore, when five Americans died in 2001 after inhaling anthrax disseminated through the mail, U.S. troops were re-

minded that anthrax is indeed a serious biowarfare threat.

Even though the vaccine program is running more smoothly than before, the vaccine itself remains under close scrutiny and is the focus of efforts to change the way the military protects its people against an insidious biological weapon. Current attempts are aimed at producing the highest level of protection in the shortest amount of time with the least side effects.

One study hopes to change the method of vaccine delivery. Currently, the shot is delivered subcutaneously between the skin and muscle. Col. Janiine Babcock, principal investigator for one study being conducted at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Maryland, has said such shots effectively stimulate the immune system but tend to cause increased side effects. Researchers hope to change the route of delivery to intramuscular, with the needle inserted directly into the muscle – a method that causes fewer injection-site reactions.

Another study is directed at changing the number of shots needed. Now, a course of anthrax vaccine involves six separate shots. The shots are staggered over an 18-month period and are followed by annual boosters. The regimen is a problem for servicemembers, who must schedule six trips to the clinic and suffer six bouts with a sore arm. The regimen also is expensive and burdensome in terms of production and logistics. Scientists hope to determine the least number of shots that will provide protection against anthrax. Some immunologists hope to prove protection after only three shots.

Researchers also are working to unravel the precise manner in which the immune system wards off anthrax. Scientists hope to gain information that will help them develop new, more effective vaccine formulas.

**Original Intent.** The anthrax vaccine, known as Anthrax Vaccine Adsorbed (AVA), was originally developed in the 1950s and 1960s to protect veterinarians, as well as textile workers who handled imported animal hides. The FDA licensed the vaccine in 1970.

The Department of Defense reports that during the Gulf War, it vaccinated approximately 150,000 servicemembers from anthrax. After the war, the anthrax threat took on renewed urgency. U.N. inspection teams reported they could not account for some 6,000 gallons of anthrax that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein claimed he had destroyed.

Richard O. Spertzel, former head of the biology section of the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq, affirmed in September 2002 what inspectors knew after the Gulf War: that Iraq had nurtured an active, aggressive biological-weapons program. "The program included bacteria, viruses, toxins and agents causing plant diseases," Spertzel told Congress. "The program sought enhanced virulence, environmental and antibiotic resistance, and aerosol dispersion." The Iraqi program also featured a weaponized version of anthrax. American analysts sifting through the post-war discoveries came to the grim conclusion that Hussein had loaded the missing anthrax aboard warheads intended for use against American troops.

**The Anthrax Nightmare.** Long before an unknown attacker spread panic and anthrax through the U.S. mail system, researchers knew the disease is truly the stuff of nightmares.

Anthrax comes in three forms. Dangerous, but least threatening, are those affecting the skin and the digestive system. The most deadly version is aerosol, or inhaled, anthrax.

Aerosol anthrax attacks via microscopic spores that float unseen through the air. Inhaled by unwitting



U.S. Coast Guard Corpsman Christina Brothers administers the anthrax vaccine to Seaman Charity Knoll aboard USCGC *Boutwell* in the northern Persian Gulf. *Corbis*

ting victims, the spores lodge within the lungs and hide for up to five days. Initially, the disease appears gently in the guise of what may seem like a cold or flu. Then infection spreads rapidly through the blood. In a textbook anthrax case, the victim drips with sweat while straining painfully for each breath. The skin turns blue from lack of oxygen. The final onslaught moves so swiftly that patients have been known to die in mid-sentence while trying to tell their doctors what is wrong.

"It is a horrible way to die," says Ken Alibek, a former Soviet bioweapons chief who defected to the United States in 1992.

The thought of Hussein plotting to turn such an insidious weapon on American troops terrorized the U.S. national-security community. The U.S. military had already planned to use antibiotics to help combat anthrax attack. But Alibek, who developed weaponized anthrax for the Soviets, warned that Russia had engineered anthrax strains that resisted antibiotics. The need for vaccination was paramount.

**The Mutiny.** In December 1997, then-Defense Secretary William Cohen announced he would vaccinate all 2.4 million U.S. military personnel against anthrax. Bit by bit, throughout the military, troops were administered the shots.

The troops reported that although the vaccine was not the worst they had received, it was markedly unpleasant. One 98-pound female Army officer developed a purple lump the size of a

golf ball. Others complained of headache, fever, joint pain and malaise. Still more said they became quite ill from the shots.

Soon, a number of troops began circulating a 1994 Senate report entitled "Is Military Research Hazardous to Veterans' Health?" This sleeper of a document, informally known as the Rockefeller Report, raised the alarming possibility that the anthrax vaccine made people sick. In a brief paragraph, the report states, "Anthrax vaccine should continue to be considered as a potential cause for undiagnosed illnesses in Persian Gulf military personnel."

In recent years, many reputable scientific groups have concluded that the anthrax vaccine does not explain the reported chronic effects associated with illnesses among Gulf War veterans. But as the Cohen-led Pentagon pressed forward with mandatory shots, the Rockefeller Report helped fuel fears that the anthrax vaccine was dangerous.

Simultaneously, a group largely composed of civilian activists raised serious questions about the vaccine and the manufacturing process. The vast majority of troops complied with orders to take the shots. But pockets of resistance sprang up on military installations across the country. Officers and enlisted personnel alike kept their sleeves rolled down with cuffs tightly buttoned against AVA.

In Connecticut, National Guard pilots were grounded for refusing to take the vaccine. A group of sailors aboard the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* were demoted and fined for refusing. More than two dozen Marines on Okinawa refused. All but five gave in after two weeks of punishment. Lawsuits were filed, and Congress got involved.

"There is no question that our troops must be protected against the real threat of an anthrax attack, but The American Legion has had definite concerns with past problems associated with BioPort, the sole manufacturer of the vaccine, and the way adverse reactions are tracked and followed up by DoD," said Paul Morin, chairman of The American Legion's National Veterans Affairs

& Rehabilitation Commission. Morin also noted that the Legion has long advocated a second manufacturer of the vaccine as well as a newer vaccine, proven for efficacy and safety, and an inoculation regimen shorter than the current six shots.

**Manufacturing Woes.** The "anthrax mutiny" raised issues of discipline, insubordination and human autonomy in relation to military authority. But if the mutiny prompted philosophical debate, it also brought concrete scrutiny of the vaccine and its manufacturer, Michigan Biologic Products.

In 1998, the beleaguered Michigan lab was sold to BioPort Corporation. As the new owners worked to put the lab on track, batches of FDA-approved vaccine fell into short supply. In July 2000, the Pentagon began a series of greatly scaled-back versions of the anthrax vaccine program. By June 2001 only those assigned to "special mission units" were given the shots.

By December 2001, the FDA approved BioPort's renovated facilities. Several months later, the Institute of Medicine issued its findings that the vaccine was safe. The Pentagon then ramped up the program to its current incarnation, with anthrax vaccine being given to servicemembers and certain civilians deployed for more than 15 days in areas deemed "high threat."

Additional studies are being conducted to study long-term health effects of the anthrax vaccine. Furthermore, officials are working to keep careful track of adverse reactions to the shot.

In time, anthrax and its vaccine may be among those illnesses and disease prophylactics best understood by science. Meanwhile, Alibek says, this much is certain about anthrax as a weapon: "It works perfectly." □

*Susan Katz Keating is author of the book "Prisoners of Hope: Exploiting the POW/MIA Myth in America."*

*Article design: King Doxsee*



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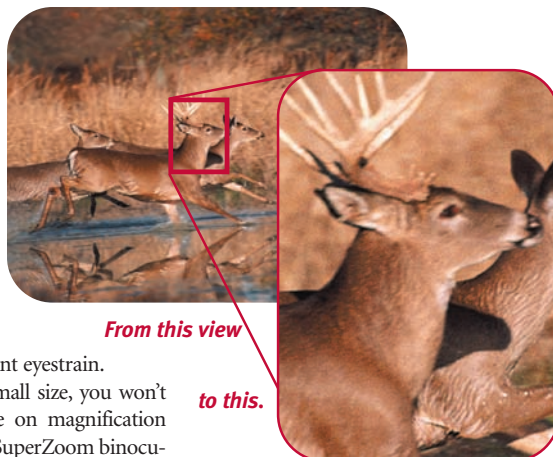
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# Men of Dishonor

*Fraud hunters expose fake combat veterans.*

BY DAN ALLSUP

**R**oy A. Toups of Independence, Mo., was a man's man with a hefty resume. At age 46, he was a former U.S. Navy SEAL and a retired rear admiral who wore the Medal of Honor. After retiring from the military, Toups worked as an undercover agent for the National Security Agency.

His girlfriend proudly displayed a photograph of Toups wearing his Navy whites, the SEAL trident and the Medal of Honor. But an alarm sounded when private detective Michael Davis happened to see the photo. A Navy veteran himself, Davis immediately recognized that Toups' medals were improperly displayed and that he was wearing a badge an admiral would never have worn. When Davis contacted the FBI, Toups' story quickly unraveled.

His real name is Ralph Ervin Crowder. He was never awarded the Medal of Honor. He was never a SEAL. In fact, Crowder never even served in the Navy. He bought the medal and uniform at a military surplus store in Albuquerque, N.M., and his NSA identification papers were as phony as he was.

On Sept. 3, 2002, Crowder donned an orange prison uniform

instead of Navy whites after he pleaded guilty to a felony (impersonating an NSA agent) and two misdemeanors (impersonating an officer and improperly displaying the Medal of Honor). He was sentenced to eight months in federal prison.

Crowder joins a long list of politicians, athletes, actors, judges, media stars and everyday Joes who exaggerate – or totally invent – tales of their wartime exploits. They include:

■ Tim Johnson, former manager of baseball's Toronto Blue Jays, who liked to get his team pumped up for games by spinning gory tales about his time as a Marine in Vietnam. He was fired in 1999 when it was learned he never served there.

■ Oregon Congressman Wes Cooley, who in 1995 told reporters he was a Special Forces demolition expert during the Korean War. He continued to serve his country as a volunteer intelligence agent after leaving the military. When enterprising reporters checked his records, they learned Cooley had never left the United States during his time in uniform. He lost his bid for re-election.

■ For years, actor Brian Dennehy, the burly co-star of "Rambo," posed as a fighting Marine. In

1989, he told *The New York Times* he was hit by shrapnel during combat in Vietnam. In a 1993 *Playboy* interview, he claimed to have served five combat tours in Southeast Asia. Dennehy indeed was a Marine for nearly four years, but the closest he ever got to the front lines was when he lined up for his unit's football squad on Okinawa.

■ In August 2001, Pulitzer Prize-winning Professor Joseph Ellis was suspended from his duties at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts after telling students he served as a platoon commander in Vietnam. He actually spent his years in the military teaching history at West Point.

As these fake heroes learned, whether they spin their tales for



stockbyte





fame, government benefits or simply to impress their pals at the local watering hole, they risk being exposed by a growing number of angry citizens determined to set the record straight.

Chuck and Mary Schantag have been recording the history of Vietnam prisoners of war for more than 13 years from their home in Skidmore, Mo. In 1998, after opening their Internet site POWnetwork.org, the Schantags began hearing from people wanting information on neighbors and coworkers claiming to be POWs.

"It didn't take long to learn that there was a strong undercurrent of stories that couldn't be backed up," Mary says. "Over the years, the number of POW wannabes has turned into an epidemic."

The Schantags have exposed more than 700 phony POWs and receive a dozen more requests each week.

Mary says it's not difficult to spot the poseurs. Complete lists of living Medal-of-Honor recipients and former Navy SEALs, Army Rangers and other elite units are readily available. In most cases, it's just a matter of filing a Freedom-of-Information-Act request with the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis.

How do phonies get away with it? Is the public that gullible? Mary says she believes it's because Americans are looking for heroes.

"Since the Gulf War, the Vietnam veteran has taken on a different status," she said. "Now it's cool to be a vet. Overnight,

our veterans have gone from being the scum of the earth to heroes. Our sports figures are wife-beaters, and our movie stars are drug addicts. America definitely needs heroes."

Vietnam veteran and Dallas stockbroker B.G. Burkett has exposed hundreds of pretenders over the past 16 years. He profiles many of them in his 1998 book "Stolen Valor," a 692-page tome that pulls no punches. Burkett said he's been told by government officials he's the "No. 1 Freedom-of-Information-Act user in America."

"I've checked over 2,000 stories, and at least 75 percent of them are bogus in one way or another," he said. "The strange thing is that some of the phonies actually did serve honorably in Vietnam, but then they decide to exaggerate what they did there. In other words, the guy really did serve in Vietnam, but he wasn't a rifleman. He was a cook."

It may not be against the law for a cook to claim to be a rifleman, but it is illegal to wear military decorations if you didn't earn them – especially the Medal of Honor. That's when FBI Special Agent Joseph Cottone Jr. gets involved. Assigned to the violent-crimes unit in Newark, N.J., one of his responsibilities is to investigate the illegal use and sale of military awards and decorations.

Cottone said the law is clear when it comes to the Medal of Honor. "There are three things you can't do," he said. "You can't wear it, you can't sell it, and no one other than the official government contractor can manufacture it." He added that it's a federal crime to wear any medal you were not awarded. Maximum punishment for a non-recipient wearing the Medal of Honor is a \$100,000 fine and a year in prison.

"It's real simple," Cottone said. "If you don't earn it, you don't wear it. Most of the cases the FBI works on involve the Medal of Honor, but I get calls all the time from people saying, 'Hey, this guy is wearing a Navy Cross, and I think he's an impostor.' I have four active Navy Cross cases I'm working on right now, and I can

guarantee that none of them were ever awarded that medal. Most of the time, they were never in the military at all."

Cottone isn't a veteran, but he admits he takes each case personally.

"Every one of these people is a disgrace and an insult to true veterans," he said. "Someone who has risked their life in defense of this country is the victim of these impostors. These phonies are stealing the valor that rightfully belongs to the true veteran."

Henry Mark Holzer also has made it his mission to expose combat counterfeiters. A Korean War veteran, attorney and law professor, Holzer has authored a number of books, including "Aid and Comfort: Jane Fonda in North Vietnam." In his most recent effort, Holzer teamed with his wife Erika, also a veteran, to write "Fake Warriors: Identifying, Exposing and Punishing Those Who Falsify Their Military Service." They expect to publish the book this year.

"They impostor themselves for money, for glory, out of guilt, for women or to make up for their empty lives," Holzer said. "They lie to engender self-esteem, to earn extra civil-service points, to get a special

*'The strange thing is that some of the phonies actually did serve honorably in Vietnam, but then they decide to exaggerate what they did there. In other words, the guy really did serve in Vietnam, but he wasn't a rifleman. He was a cook.'*

— B.G. Burkett,  
author of "Stolen Valor"

license plate, to impress their kids or just to get publicity. Sometimes it starts with a small lie over a drink and then it just grows. 'Yeah, I was in the Army. Yeah, I was in Vietnam. Oh, sure, I was in Tet. I saved the first sergeant, got wounded and earned a medal.' One guy won the Distinguished Service Cross but claimed to have won the Medal of Honor. Most people would be quite content with the DSC, but these guys are driven by a need they can't satisfy.

"It's ugly, it's awful and it's deceitful," Holzer continued. "This isn't just telling war stories in a bar; they're doing real harm. It's sickening when you have people like this leading the Fourth-of-July parade when our real heroes have died."

The Schantags, Cottone, Bur-

kett and other fraud-hunters often are asked why they spend so much time and energy exposing the hypocrisy of cowards who pass as heroes. Henry and Erica Holzer answer that question on their Web site, [Fakewarriors.com](http://Fakewarriors.com).

"Unless something is done ... their shameless, self-aggrandizing and costly conduct will not only continue unabated; it will grow," the Holzers write. "Anyone who thinks such conduct is mere-

ly offensive and relatively harmless is misinformed.

"The legitimate accomplishments of veterans who honorably served America are dishonored and depreciated. Worse, those accomplishments increasingly are shadowed by suspicion among people who conscientiously try to distinguish between the real and the fake. The well has been poisoned by the proliferation of fake warriors."

The fraud-hunters are merely cleaning the well. □

*Freelance writer Dan Allsup is a Vietnam-era veteran. The closest he got to Vietnam was when he was stationed in Taiwan, a popular rest and recreation spot for combat troops.*

Article design: Doug Rollison

## What to do if you think you've found a hollow hero

Do you suspect your neighbor is exaggerating his Vietnam War record to impress the ladies? If so – and if he is – it's not all that difficult to find out.

The best place to start is the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, depository of the military records of everyone who ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Available information includes dates of service, ranks, type of discharge, citations and awards. Although a 1973 fire destroyed about 80 percent of all records between 1912 to 1960, NPRC can still verify military service from the Department of Veterans Affairs and various state agencies. Few Vietnam-era records were destroyed, and no Navy records were lost in the fire.

If your suspected phony hero will co-

operate, ask him to sign a Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the National Archives and Records Administration Web site at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov). The form is a proxy statement giving authority to obtain all the information available to the veteran himself, including his DD-214. Mail the SF-180 to NPRC with the veteran's full name and Social Security number. If you want to know if he earned a particular award, ask for the General Order awarding the medal in question.

In the more likely event that the veteran refuses to give you permission to research his service history, you can write NPRC and ask for his records under the Freedom of Information Act. Include his correctly spelled full name and as much personal information as possible,

including branch of service, hometown, and his service number or Social Security number.

Then sit back and wait; the average turnaround time for requests is about four months. Requests that involve reconstruction efforts due to the 1973 fire may take longer.

Write NPRC at: National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.

If you suspect a fraud is wearing the Medal of Honor, call the FBI at **(816) 512-8200** or the Congressional Medal of Honor Society in South Carolina at **(843) 884-8862**. You also can visit the society's Web site at [www.cmoahs.org](http://www.cmoahs.org).

— D.A.



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# Dear Germany: Have you learned anything?

BY DENNIS PRAGER

I grew up, as many Americans and nearly all Jews did, with a deep anger at your country. But as a young man, I began to rethink my views of Germans. Against the wishes of almost everyone I knew — most of whom would not even buy a German product — I decided to go to Germany. My visit in 1968, at the age of 20, was the first of at least a dozen trips to your country.

In fact, I became a defender of yours.

I argued that it was wrong to hold any German who had been younger than 13 years old during the war morally responsible for your country's horrific crimes. I

chose the age of 13 because in Judaism, that is the age of moral culpability. I argued in 1968 that every German then under the age of 40 must be regarded as blameless, and we should not assume the worst of every German over 40.

I argued that because Volkswagen and Mercedes defied the Arab boycott and did business with Israel, Jews should not boycott German products.

I argued that you were our staunch ally in the Cold War in confronting Soviet Communism.

I argued, most important of all, that Germans were ashamed of their Nazi past and had learned great moral lessons from it.

The last argument, I now realize, was more hope than fact. There is no question that the vast majority of Germans are ashamed of Nazism and the Holocaust. But I am now as certain as I am sad that

you learned nothing about good and evil from it, and that you are as confused morally today as you were when you supported Hitler. Not because you are evil, but because you cannot recognize evil.

This is stunning. Unlike the Japanese, who have ignored their atrocities against the Chinese and



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Koreans, you confronted your evil. You taught the next generations of Germans about Nazism and about the Holocaust.

It is therefore incredible that all that education about evil has produced a generation that shies away from judging, let alone confronting, evil. It boggles the mind that a nation that was liberated from Nazism solely by armies waging war should embrace pacifism, that a nation that saw what appeasement of evil leads to now embraces it.

I was sure that some German leaders would stand up and say, "My fellow Germans, we know a Hitler when we see one, and Saddam Hussein is one." But no German stood up to say this. Instead one of your leaders compared the American president to Hitler.

I was sure that some German leaders would stand up and say,

"My fellow Germans, we know genocidal anti-Semitism when we see it, and we see it in the Arab world." But no German leader stood up to say this either.

Few of us expected anything from the French. From the Jacobins and the guillotine, to the Dreyfus trial, to the Vichy regime,

to de Gaulle's withdrawal from anti-Communist NATO, France, with rare exceptions, has done little that is moral and nothing that is courageous. So the disdain that many Americans have long felt for France has merely been reinforced.

But I think that I speak in the name of many Americans in saying that we expected more of you. Because of

what we did for you after World War II and during the Cold War. Because you, of all people, know that Americans are a decent people. And especially because of your experience with evil. How could you have produced a Hitler and not recognize another one just one generation later? How could you know firsthand about torture chambers and children's screams and not ache to end them in another country? How could you side with amoral France against your friend America?

There is, it would seem, only one answer. Nazism taught you nothing. Instead of learning that evil must be fought, you learned that fighting is evil.

But thanks for Bach. □

*Dennis Prager (www.dennisprager.com) is a syndicated radio talk-show host and columnist.*



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# The American Fighting Man

His average age is 19.

He is a short-haired, tight-muscled kid who, under normal circumstances, is considered by society as half man, half boy – not yet dry behind the ears, not old enough to buy beer but old enough to die for his country.

He never really cared much for work, and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's, but he has never collected unemployment either.

He's a recent high-school graduate; he was probably an average student, pursued some form of sport activities, drives a 10-year-old jalopy and has a steady girlfriend who either broke up with him when he left or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away.

He listens to rock 'n' roll, hip-hop, rap, jazz or swing and weapons fire.

He is 10 or 15 pounds lighter now than when he was home. He is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dusk.

He has trouble spelling, thus letter writing is a pain for him, but he can field-strip a rifle in 30 seconds and reassemble it in less time, in the dark.

He can recite to you the

nomenclature of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must.

He digs foxholes and latrines and can apply first aid like a professional.

He can march until he is told to stop or stop until he is told to march.

He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity.

He is self-sufficient. He has two sets of fatigues: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry.

He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth but never to clean his rifle.

He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothes and fix his own hurts. If you're thirsty, he'll share his water with you; if you are hungry, his food.

He'll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle, when you run low. He has learned to use his hands like weapons and

PFC Brian Lazore of the 3rd Battalion of the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Assault Division keeps an eye on an Iraqi prisoner of war. *Benjamin Lowy/Corbis*

weapons like they were his hands. He can save your life – or take it – because that is his job.

He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay and still find ironic humor in it all. He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime.

He has wept in public and in private for friends who have fallen in combat, and is unashamed. He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate through his body while at rigid attention, while tempering the burning desire to "square away" those around him who haven't bothered to stand, remove their hats, or even stop talking. In an odd twist, day in and day out, far from home, he defends their right to be disrespectful.

Just as did his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, he is paying the price for our freedom.

Beardless or not, he is not a boy.

He is the American fighting man who has kept this country free for more than 200 years.

He has asked nothing in return except our friendship and understanding. Remember him always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood.

– Author unknown



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# U.S. Energy Independence: Salvation or Mirage?

*To minimize dependence on Middle Eastern oil, America must diversify its energy sources and suppliers.*

BY ROBERT MCGARVEY

America is asking some serious energy questions. Can we count on Middle Eastern oil to power our cars, heat our homes and run our factories? Or should the United States go it alone, pursue a course of full-fledged energy independence, beholden to no foreign powers for oil?

These questions will linger long after the rebuilding of Iraq because the United States will continue to have enemies in the Middle East. Make no mistake: sentiments in favor of energy independence are showing up on the radar screens of policymakers. "You hear this especially inside the Beltway," says Jerry Taylor, an energy expert with the Cato Institute, a Washington-based think tank.

What's not to like about energy self-sufficiency? At first glance, it seems a brilliant goal, but understand that in many quarters "energy independence" are fighting words. Ask Lee Raymond, CEO of ExxonMobil, the world's largest petroleum company, about U.S. energy independence, and he snorts that the idea is "a delusion."

It's just not realistic."

"Energy independence isn't a very attractive idea," agrees Luke Popovich, a spokesperson for the Alliance for Energy and Economic Growth, a Washington-based coalition of energy producers and users. "I don't think it is attainable."

Cato's Taylor is more blunt. If somehow the United States did achieve energy independence, he says, "it would be positively harmful. How would it be in the interest of U.S. national security to drain domestic reserves first?"

That's a troubling thought, but it's just one of many reasons why energy independence – as good an idea as it initially seems – has a number of critics.

Here's a reality check. Roughly 60 percent of the nation's petroleum now is imported. The first time Americans demanded energy independence was in the immediate aftermath of the 1973 Arab oil embargo, which cut off petroleum exports from October 1973 to March 1974. The result was chaos at the gas pumps, electricity brownouts, cold homes in the winter and an economy that stumbled, as national dependence upon abundant supplies of inex-

pensive energy became clear. The cure proposed by many in Washington was energy independence. So why is that call heard again 30 years later?

For good reason: the United States is more dependent than ever on foreign energy. At the time of the 1973 embargo, about 28 percent of the petroleum used in the United States came from foreign sources. U.S. dependence has since doubled. Why? Partly because imported oil "is cheaper than domestic," says Taylor, who explains that costs associated with production are low in, say, Saudi Arabia, but costs for drilling in the Alaskan interior would be much higher, both because of the remote location and the difficult environment. "Who would want to pay more for domestic oil simply because it is domestic?" Taylor asks.

At the same time, the nation's proven petroleum reserves have been dwindling. In 1972, the American Petroleum Institute – a Washington-based trade association – put domestic reserves at 36.3 billion barrels. In 2000, the U.S. Energy Information Administration pegged domestic reserves





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at 23.2 billion barrels. That number will likely keep falling because domestic fields are mature, and no one expects major new oil finds in the lower 48 states.

Does that spell doom for U.S. energy independence? Not exactly. "This country should do everything we reasonably can to attain our own energy security," says ExxonMobil's Raymond. "But let's not confuse that with the notion that we can be totally independent of the world."

"Already much is being done to ensure energy security," Popovich adds.

The fact is that in the 30 years since the first Arab oil embargo, the nation has taken dramatic steps to make itself impervious to foreign-energy threats:

■ **Strong Petroleum Reserve.**

Government-owned fuel supplies have systematically built up during the George W. Bush administration. From 540 million barrels in 2000, the inventory expanded to 599 million barrels in January, the highest level ever reached. How much fuel does this amount to? Best estimates are that this is ample petroleum to power the

nation for about two months, and that, most experts believe, is a sizable deterrent to another Arab oil embargo. Keep in mind that Arab oil producers are highly dependent on the flow of U.S. dollars into their economies. They need that money as much as we need their energy, experts say.

■ **Suppliers.** The world now has many more places to shop for oil. Thirty years ago, OPEC – a group primarily led by Middle Eastern nations – dominated petroleum exports. Today, oil comes from a broad supplier base involving many non-OPEC countries such as Norway, the United Kingdom, Russia and Mexico. Experts are largely united in seeing non-OPEC nations stepping up production levels if a boycott were imposed by Arab nations. That means a 1973 embargo just couldn't happen again, experts say.

*Today, oil comes from a broad supplier base involving many non-OPEC countries such as Norway, the United Kingdom, Russia and Mexico.*

■ **Higher Domestic Production.**

The United States may have dwindling domestic reserves, but sophisticated technologies are allowing oil companies to drill in places previously off-limits – particularly in the Gulf of Mexico. In a region 190 miles south of New Orleans, for instance, ChevronTexaco has tapped into a huge oil reserve in a region called the Tahitian Prospect. Drilling in water 4,000 feet deep – roughly four-fifths of a mile – ChevronTexaco probed another 28,411 feet before it hit paydirt. ExxonMobil, too, is active in the gulf, as are many other companies. A decade ago, such wells were economically unthinkable and probably technologically impossible. Now they are almost commonplace and will contribute a rising flow of oil to meet the nation's needs.

Do these facts mean we already have energy independence? Nobody says that, but there is broad agreement that the United States may already have significant energy security because it is much less dependent on Arab oil than it was a generation ago.

The same experts also say more could be done to en-

hance domestic energy security if sufficient public support exists.

■ **Nuclear Power.** "It could generate all our electricity," says John Tobin, executive director of the Energy Literacy Project, an Evergreen, Colo., organization devoted to raising public awareness about energy issues. Nuclear power might be a 100-percent domestic resource, but it has been a political taboo for a quarter-century. Its supporters are scarce. But the rest of the world takes a more aggressive approach to nuclear power. France, for instance, gets 75 percent of its electricity from nuclear power, and Germany and Japan each get about 30 percent, compared to about 20 percent in the United States. "It's disappointing that we don't make more use of nuclear," Tobin says. However, nuclear power has a downside: worries about its safety. But, Tobin says, other nations believe they have a handle on this. Why can't the United States? The bottom line is more use of nuclear power remains a route to greater self-reliance only if the public and politicians unite in supporting it.

■ **More Coal.** "Burning more of it will help us be more energy independent," says Sam Tanenbaum, a professor of engineering at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, Calif. The nation, which once burned coal as a primary source of energy, has enormous amounts of this fuel. Literally hundreds of

*'This country should do everything we reasonably can to attain our own energy security. But let's not confuse that with the notion that we can be totally independent of the world.'*

— Lee Raymond, ExxonMobil CEO

years of supplies lie underground.

"There is more energy in coal reserves in Illinois alone than there is in all the oil of Saudi Arabia," says Steve McClure, CEO of Clearstack, a Springfield, Ill.-based company that researches technologies to allow for cleaner burning of coal. However, therein lies the rub. Coal is abundant but dirty. "I don't see any political will to significantly increase usage," Popovich says. Surprisingly enough, coal now amounts to more than 20 percent of the energy consumed in the United States. Mainly it is converted into electricity in Western states, but work such as Clearstack's is squarely aimed at making coal cleaner and therefore more usable.

Has progress been made? Studies underwritten by the Clean Coal Technology Program, a public-private joint venture run by the Department of Energy, already identify improvements in coal's cleanliness.

■ **Conservation.** Few believe we can conserve our way to energy

independence. Abundant supplies of energy fuel a growing economy. But probably we soon will be able to "take steps to reduce our dependence on the internal-combustion engine (the automobile)," Tanenbaum says, and the less oil we need to run cars and trucks, the less we will need imported petroleum. How realistic are alternative-fuel vehicles?

Tanenbaum points to substantial improvements such as new-breed "hybrids," as they are called, from Toyota and Honda. These cars are primarily electricity-powered, and gasoline is used only as needed. Even more advanced research focuses on hydrogen-powered cars that will, in effect, produce their own power from the air around us. When will such cars be commonplace? Nobody is making hard predictions, but today's rate of innovation is faster, and more optimistic, than ever.

"We can take steps to raise our energy security, and we have been doing so," Popovich says. "Let's diversify our energy sources and in that way minimize our dependence on any one source. We don't have to be dependent on Arab regimes or any other regimes. Once we decide to, we can have the energy security we want. That is very possible." □

*Robert McGarvey is a freelance writer who lives in Arizona.*

*Article design: Doug Rollison*

## Is an oil-free diet the answer?

Shouldn't we all simply tighten our energy belts, cut off imports from unfriendly or suspicious nations, and thereby starve out those regimes? That sentiment has appeal in many circles.

But there's another viewpoint. Jerry Taylor of the Cato Institute offers this perspective: "Declining oil revenues increase instability in moderate Arab states and thus

make more likely bin Laden takeovers in countries such as Saudi Arabia." The historic precedent originates in 1979 when the Western-friendly Shah of Iran fell from power and was replaced by Islamic extremists, led by the Ayatollah Khomeini. Iran has been a thorn for the United States since. We have no reason to believe successor regimes in Saudi

Arabia and neighboring states would be any more pro-United States than the current regimes. Going on an oil diet to toss out the current Arab rulers might have emotional appeal, but experts say it is difficult to envision that this tactic actually would lead to a better deal for U.S. interests in the region.

— R.M.





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# The Draft Debate



## FOR THE DRAFT

*Conscription means the sacrifice is shared.*

BY REP. CHARLES RANGEL

I still find it hard to believe that I started as a high-school dropout in Harlem and ended up as a member of the U.S. Congress, serving on the Ways and Means Committee. It has been a tremendous honor for me to serve this nation, and if I thought that any country would try to jeopardize the opportunities we enjoy as Americans, then I would be willing to strike out against them.

What I have been concerned with, however, is that in order to

understand war you must understand the sacrifices that war entails. An administration that talks about shared sacrifice, while asking only a certain segment of our young men and women to fight – without conclusive evidence that the attack is justified – is on shaky ground. When our troops are sent “over there,” we must also ask who fights, who dies, who sacrifices.

The data show that in our U.S. Congress, only one member has a kid in the enlisted ranks of the armed forces, and fewer than a half dozen have children who are officers. I don’t believe everyone has to be a veteran or has to have a child in the military, but when you talk about war, you have to talk about personal sacrifice. Common sense tells you that decisionmakers would act more carefully and cautiously if their

children were at risk.

I have always opposed war with Iraq. But whether facing Iraq or any other enemy, we should consider mandatory national service for all men and women ages 18 to 26. After meeting our military needs, those who cannot serve in uniform – for reasons of health or conscience – would be required to perform civilian service in our airports and our seaports, our hospitals, our schools and wherever else they could contribute to our homeland security.

As all veterans know, whether you go into the military screaming and scratching or demanding a deferment, once you’ve served you feel better as a person and as an American. You will not only earn the respect and gratitude of our nation, but you also will have a better

➔ see **Rangel**, page 30





DoD photo by Sgt. Paustovski, U.S. Army

# AGAINST THE DRAFT

*Those who want to serve, serve better.*

BY FRED PECK

This year, the All-Volunteer Force marks its 30th anniversary. For three decades, all the people in America's armed forces have freely chosen to serve their country. Military leaders have found that relying upon volunteers to fill the ranks has created the finest military in the world – one that is successful, cost-effective and dedicated to its mission.

It was the AVF that won decisive victory in the 1991 Gulf War. Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf credited the stunning performance of U.S. forces to superior person-

nel quality. U.S. forces have continued to distinguish themselves in operations in Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Serbia and Afghanistan.

Voluntary, rather than compulsory, military service offers many advantages. Foremost, those serving want to be there. The Army was the primary recipient of draftees, but each service got some portion of its enlisted force because of the draft. All recruiting efforts benefited when many who enlisted were at least partially motivated by the draft. For example, in the Marines some 85 percent of Vietnam-era enlistees were "draft-induced." That is, they were about to be drafted, so they exercised a choice for another branch. The majority of draftees served well and honorably, often heroically. Some draftees, such as my older brother, even volunteered

for Vietnam service.

However, an important difference in today's AVF is that it's a punishment to kick people out. In the draft era, it was a punishment to keep them in. Draftees serve for only two years; that's barely enough time to train them to be adequate riflemen. Most enlistees today sign up for four years, and many join for six. In terms of return on investment, voluntary service is decidedly more cost-effective.

As one who commanded infantry units both during the draft era and during the all-volunteer era, I find the choice between the two is clear. I'll take the AVF – as say most of today's military leaders from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on down.

As a platoon leader, I had a Marine who just ➤see **Peck**, page 31

[**Rangel**] understanding of the diversity of our country.

This is not a race issue, but it is one of class. Am I saying that under the current system the affluent and politically connected generally avoid serving? You bet your life I am.

Blacks and minorities are overwhelmingly in the lower and the moderate-income levels of our society. So their attraction to the military is out of a desire for economic opportunity, education and to learn marketable skills that are not available to them as civilians.

Some people say, "Well, then, they want to fight."

No. They're *prepared* to fight, but they're not *looking* for a fight.

And the racial question, I think, has been shattered by my friend and partner in this legislation, Sen. Fritz Hollings, D-S.C. He says his poor rural constituents, like minorities, find themselves without job opportunities and join the military, sacrificing more than the privileged classes.

Hollings also talks about the excessive contributions of reservists because he comes from a state that has more military installations than most. There's a tendency among people who are discharged from the military to retire near the installation of their last assignment and join the National Guard and the Reserves. And it is these people who are called upon each and every month to shore up the active-duty forces.

*In the middle of battle, no one asks how you got there, whether you're a draftee or volunteer. They want to know: how the hell are we going to get out of this mess?*

Early on, one of the reasons for the rush to war was our concern about shortages of reservists to replace the active-duty troops already deployed in the Middle East.

Months ago, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was forced to impose stop-loss orders on the active-duty Army, Marines and Air Force, exposing the Pentagon's concern over meeting its manpower needs.

What is happening with our National Guard and reservists is having a financial impact on their families, some of whom are on food stamps and others who are calling out for help from the federal government. The reserve deployments also are depleting our police and fire departments, where many of them are employed.

Among the criticisms of my proposal is that volunteers don't want draftees to serve with them. That's poppycock. In the middle of battle, no one asks how you got there, whether you're a draftee or volunteer. They want to know: how the hell are we going to get

out of this mess? How can we help each other, and how can we defend the flag? I respectfully disagree with Rumsfeld's contention that we lose money on draftees who – in Vietnam at least – left the military with so much valuable training wasted on them.

I would remind those who don't expect the legislation to go anywhere that the same was said of the initiative to end apartheid in South Africa, and that few expected passage of the Voting Rights Act or the legislation that ended segregation. Ultimately, if we don't have this legislation, we're going to have to come up with something to meet our manpower requirements.

We cannot continue to rely on financial incentives, including cash bonuses, to build our military. I don't think Americans want the kind of country that relies on the less privileged in society to fight the wars while requiring little or no sacrifice from the affluent. My legislation has started a national debate on who fights our wars. I am even more convinced that in this great country of ours, which offers so much opportunity to so many, those with the power to decide on going to war must be certain that the enormous burden of sacrifice is shared by all. □

*U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., is a Korean War veteran and former general counsel of the Advisory Commission on the Selective Service during the Johnson administration.*

## AMERICAN LEGION RESOLUTION NO. 79, ADOPTED AUGUST 2002

### Support for the Selective Service Registration Program

WHEREAS, The American Legion has given long-standing support to universal military training; and despite the success of the All-Volunteer Force, Selective Service registration continues to serve as our defense manpower insurance policy; and

WHEREAS, Some members of Congress are intent on eroding the nation's requirement for registration as they claim that the United States no longer faces a threat significant enough to justify registration; and

WHEREAS, Despite the end of the Cold War, American servicemen and women are deployed worldwide to include their participation in the peace-enforcement missions

in Bosnia and Kosovo and enforcing no-fly zones in Iraq and engaging in the war on terrorism and homeland security; the unpredictability and volatility of worldwide tensions urge us to think in terms of continued preparedness, not demobilization; and

WHEREAS, The current reality of small active forces only reinforces the need for combat-ready National Guard and Reserve units and for the capability to reconstitute our forces in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, World Wars I and II began long before our country became involved, allowing the United States the benefit of abundant time to accomplish registration before

troops were actually committed – a luxury that we cannot expect to enjoy in today's unpredictable environment; and

WHEREAS, The Selective Service Registration Program has enjoyed remarkable success as more than 90 percent of our 18-to-25-year-olds have registered, and there is virtually no resistance to the program; and

WHEREAS, The cost to administer the registration program is approximately \$7.4 million per year, making the program extremely cost-effective; and

WHEREAS, Registration is one of the few remaining obligations our nation requires of



[**Peck**] didn't want to get with the program. I tried every approach imaginable to motivate him but without success. He was a high-school graduate, intelligent, a good athlete and from a stable home – the makings of a good Marine. Yet he was a perpetual malcontent. Finally, I sat down with him to see if we could strike a bargain.

"I just don't understand you," I said. "You could be a great Marine, but you fight me at every turn. Why did you ever join the Marine Corps?"

"I never joined the Marine Corps, sir," he replied. "I was drafted."

Later, in the early post-draft era, I commanded an infantry company when then-Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Louis Wilson instituted the Expeditious Discharge Program to rid the Corps of those who really didn't want to serve. The program's logic, as Wilson explained, was that it was better to have 20 men with you on whom you knew you could count than to have 40 men on whom you couldn't. Essentially, that program determined who really wanted to be Marines.

Those who didn't were thanked for their service and sent home. The Corps has been the better for that ever since.

The AVF has been an unqualified success, yet a few members of Congress, led by Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., advocate the re-

*If you were leading an infantry platoon into battle, would you rather have the high-school football team with you, or the debate team?*

turn of compulsory military service. Rangel was joined in his call for a renewed draft by Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Mich., and Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C. They argue that a draft allows all Americans to share the burden of national defense and, as Conyers contends, that "conscription ... removes the long-held stigma that people of color and persons from low-income backgrounds are disproportionately killed and injured while serving as the ground troops on the front line."

Their arguments fail on every level. Most importantly, concerning the ability of America's armed forces to fight and win wars, conscription adds nothing and subtracts substantially from its capabilities.

It's an urban myth that minorities suffered a disproportionate number of casualties in Vietnam. In fact, Northwestern University sociologist Charles Moskos has pointed out that black fatalities in Vietnam were slightly lower proportionally – 12 percent – than their percentage of the population. Moskos also revealed that casualty rates for blacks in subsequent conflicts ran about 14 percent, roughly equivalent to their percentage in the population and significantly lower than their percentage in the armed forces. Recent studies of the composition of today's military show that whites are over-represented in the combat specialties, and thus would be expected to suffer greater casualties, proportionally, than other ethnic groups.

Many minorities see military service as an opportunity to pull themselves up. "Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines – It's a great place to start!" More than an advertis-

ing slogan, that's a truism.

Proponents of conscription wrongly assert that military service places an undue burden on those of lower economic groups. If the sons and daughters of the rich were more at risk, they contend, we would be less likely to go to war. They advance the view that "America's armed forces should mirror society." Admittedly, the idea of some sort of national service is attractive to people on both sides of the draft issue.

It's a noble thought but one that fails the test of common sense. The military already excludes significant segments of society. The too-old or too-young, too-tall or too-short, and the mentally or physically challenged are just a sample of those determined unfit for military service. The objective is to field an army that will win wars with the least number of casualties, not an army that will suffer a proportional number of casualties based upon the demographics of the latest census.

Historically, great armies are made up of the best fighters. Do we want our front-line troops to be selected based upon their race or income level of their families? If you were leading an infantry platoon into battle, would you rather have the high-school football team with you, or the debate team?

I deplore those who try to advance their personal agendas through the military. Some areas of American society need improvement, and I applaud those who work for positive change. However, the makeup of America's armed forces is a matter of life and death. If a proposal exists that will improve them, it should be vigorously pursued. If a proposal exists that seeks to achieve a social goal to the detriment of the armed forces, it should be rejected, as our military leadership has done with the proposal to bring back the draft. □

*Fred Peck is a retired Marine Corps colonel and a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy.*

*Article design: Doug Rollison*

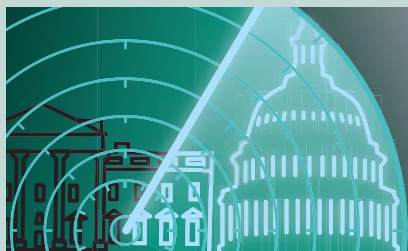
its young men and removing this "rite of passage" for all men would reduce each man's level of consciousness about military service and the obligation to defend our nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, N.C., Aug. 27, 28, 29, 2002, That The American Legion supports the retention of the Selective Service Registration Program as being in the best interests of all Americans, and its maintenance is a proven cost-effective, essential and rapid means of reconstituting the required forces to protect our national-security interests.

## Double standards

After blocking a U.N. resolution that would have done nothing more than restate the previous 16 on Iraq's disarmament, French President Jacques Chirac condemned the U.S.-led attack on Saddam Hussein's regime because it was "undertaken without the approval of the United Nations ... which is the only legitimate framework for building peace in Iraq." Echoing Chirac, Russian President Vladimir Putin argued that "military action can in no way be justified."

Of course, if the United Nations is the sole source of legitimacy for military action, Moscow and Paris have some explaining to do. After all, on the same week coalition forces attacked Saddam's regime, hundreds of French troops poured into the Central African Republic to protect French interests after a coup. France didn't ask the United Nations for permission. And this was anything but an isolated case of French unilateralism. In fact, France has launched or participated in some 20 major military operations since the United Nations' founding in 1948. Almost none of them were authorized by the United Nations, and almost all of them smacked of



neo-colonialism — from the war in Indochina to the war in Tunisia, from the seizure of the Suez Canal to the troubles in Algeria. Moreover, France has openly defied calls from the United Nations to relinquish control over Mayotte, an island off the coast of Comoros in eastern Africa.

Russia's hypocrisy is just as naked: Moscow regularly sends troops into Georgia and other former Soviet republics without U.N. approval. As *The Washington Times* reports, the Georgian government has protested these incursions, and the Georgian parliament has even called on the United Nations and regional organizations to examine this pattern of Russian adventurism.

The reality is the United Nations has never been the global constabulary the French pretend it to be. Aside from the Korean War and the first Gulf War, the U.N. Security Council has been either unable or unwilling to authorize military action against threats to peace.

Even so, Washington and London could — and did — cite a slew of U.N. resolutions dating back to 1991 to justify their campaign against Saddam.

— A.W.D.

## Bringing them home?

Reacting to the prewar intransigence of Paris, Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite, R-Fla., introduced a bill that would aid families of veterans who wish to disinter the remains of their relatives who are buried in France. Many Americans "do not feel that the French government appreciates the

sacrifices men and women in uniform have made to defend the freedom that the French enjoy today," Brown-Waite says. About 74,000 U.S. war dead are buried in France and Belgium.

Known as the "American Heroes Repatriation Act," the bill would "provide, upon the request of a qualifying person, for the removal of the remains of any U.S. servicemember or other person interred in an American Battle Monuments Commission cemetery located in France or Belgium and for the transportation of such remains to a location in the United States for reinterment."



The bill is just one of many reflecting congressional frustration with France. One piece of legislation would block French firms from postwar reconstruction contracts in Iraq. Another condemns France,

Germany and Belgium for actions that "will have profound, deleterious effects on the NATO

alliance, possibly exposing its core mutual-defense guarantee as nothing more than empty words."

## A dream fades

If the dream of European economic and political unity was born in the late 1940s, history may record that it died in 2003.

First, Belgium, France and Germany revolted against their NATO allies and split the alliance in two by blocking efforts to deploy defensive equipment to Turkey. British Prime Minister Tony Blair then joined seven other European leaders in authoring an open letter endorsing Washington's efforts to dis-

arm Iraq, reportedly blindsiding Paris and Berlin in the process. Next, Chirac publicly lectured his East European counterparts for siding with Washington on Iraq. Finally, France and Germany organized international opposition to British and Spanish efforts to pass a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq.

To top it all off, French and German officials recently discovered electronic bugging devices in their offices at the European Union in Brussels. Nothing says unity and friendship better than a wire tap.

The BBC News concludes that "Europe's deep divisions over Iraq" could scuttle "progress on a new constitution for the European Union." A draft constitution was to be handed over to E.U. leaders this month, but those plans have been shelved, at least until September. A key plank of the constitution is the so-called "common foreign and security policy," which appears virtually impossible today given the widening ideological divide between the emerging Franco-German bloc and the rest of Europe.

— Alan W. Dowd



# Misery's happy side

*Retired Marine makes a healthy habit of 2,100-mile hikes.*

BY LAYNE CAMERON

To say J.R. Tate knows the Appalachian Trail is like saying Chuck Yeager knows airplanes. Tate, a retired Marine lieutenant colonel, has hiked the 2,100-mile footpath from Georgia to Maine not once, but three times.

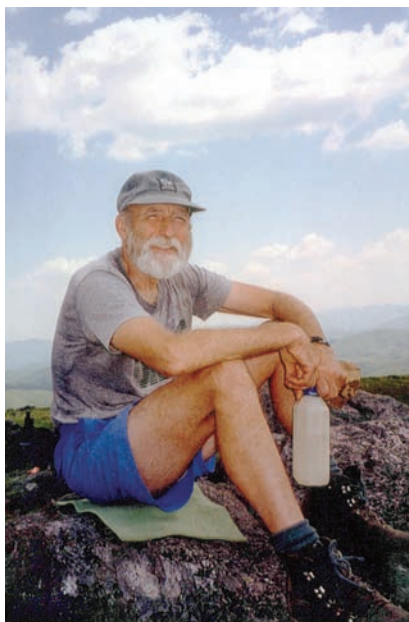
Rather than sit back and admire athletes on television, Tate “thru-hiked” the strenuous Appalachian Trail during the 1990, 1994 and 1998 Olympic Games. “Instead of hiking in 2002, I wrote a book about it,” the slim 66-year-old says. “Writing that book felt like three thru-hikes combined.”

His book, “Walkin’ on the Happy Side of Misery,” seemingly details every step, every half-cooked box of instant noodles and every storm-battered night spent in rickety shelters of his inaugural six-month journey. Tate takes great pride in serving as a living example of a once-sedentary La-Z-Boy lounge transformed into an accomplished thru-hiker nicknamed “Model-T.”

**Mentally Awake.** A lifetime of “adapt, improvise and overcome” prepared Tate for the mental challenges of the trail. Living off the land during a winter escape-and-evasion exercise early in his military career gave him some tools that later helped him complete the trail. Avoiding capture helped him focus on the goal. Eating reptiles taught him to not let adversity deter him from his purpose.

“Anybody that would eat a garter snake would eat anything,” Tate says. “The military environment instills in you a desire to achieve whatever goal you take on.”

Tate’s physical training for his first Appalachian Trail trek consisted of climbing steep trails toting a backpack loaded with a complete set of encyclopedias. Looking back, this approach was a bit gung-ho,



Courtesy J.R. Tate

he admits. His second trip, he regained his fitness by hiking eight miles the first three days, 10 miles the next three and 12 miles the next three. In just 10 days, Tate was soon covering 15 and 19 miles a day. “Anyone in decent shape can do it, if they ease into it.”

Excellent health does not stop injuries. Carrying a 50-pound backpack for long miles can produce sore feet, twisted ankles or sprained knees. A painful sprain nearly ended Tate’s dream of completing his first hike. But rather than allow it to stop him, he rested in a shelter for a day and walked it off, so to speak.

Tate also discovered that the Appalachian Trail is the ultimate weight-loss program. Where else can a person eat eight candy bars a day and drink squeezable margarine from the bottle and still lose weight? “You burn so many calories that your body is going to eat regardless of whether or not you feed it,” says Tate, who admits gorging on fatty foods to offset his atomic caloric burn. “If you don’t

eat food, your body will eat your fat, and if you’re not careful, it will begin eating your muscles.”

Constant hunger is accompanied by insatiable thirst. Tate chugs quarts of water at a time, sometimes stream water that is “tea-colored and infested with caterpillars.” The alternative to not drinking, though, is dehydration. And, of course, Tate’s inner Marine does not allow that option.

**Morally Straight.** Overcoming adversity, communing with nature and having to drink brown water by the gallon changed Tate both physically and mentally. The Marine Corps may have created an ultra-competitive, time-oriented fighting machine, but the trail altered him. He is tranquil, less competitive and more accepting of others.

Would he do it again? “Every spring I get the itch. ‘Springer Fever’ calls me out to the trail. You forget about the constant hunger, the blistered feet and the heat exhaustion and remember only the sunrises and the starry nights.”

Role models like Alvis Kinney, an Army veteran and hiker nicknamed “Paw Paw,” inspire Tate. Kinney holds the record for being the oldest thru-hiker at 82. Tate says he has one more thru-hike in him. He would like to do it when he is 83 or 84 so he can break the record.

The Appalachian Trail, it seems, has not taken all of this Marine’s competitive edge.

*Layne Cameron is a media relations manager at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., and a freelance writer.*

*Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their personal physicians when they have health problems.*

# The fog of Alzheimer's

*VA plays leading role in treatment research.*

BY DR. NELDA P. WRAY

When President Reagan made public his diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease in 1994, the nation turned its attention to this frightening brain disorder. While Reagan may be the most famous American with Alzheimer's, he is by no means alone: some 4 million Americans have the disease, including one in 10 people older than 65 and nearly half of those older than 85.

Alzheimer's disease exacts an immense economic toll, costing our society more than \$100 billion per year. Only heart disease and cancer are more expensive to treat. But, as with any illness, the greatest bur-

den falls on patients and their families. A progressive, degenerative disease of the brain, Alzheimer's gradually robs people of their ability to think, speak and perform everyday activities such as eating, bathing and dressing. Symptoms begin with mild memory loss and progress over a decade or two to total loss of function. The decline is slow and painful for family caregivers, who must watch – often helplessly – as their loved one's condition deteriorates.

## Diagnosis.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, the progressive loss of mental faculties. The second most common cause is multiple small

strokes, resulting in what doctors call multi-infarct or vascular dementia. Neither type of dementia is curable.

Some reversible conditions, such as depression and malnutrition, may produce Alzheimer's-like symptoms. Physicians must be

careful to rule out other possible causes before diagnosing Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's specialists can correctly diagnose the disease in nine of 10 cases

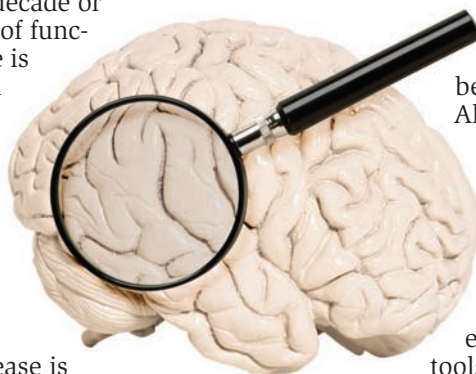
using established tools, including

medical history; blood, urine and other tests that may show biochemical markers; neuropsychological tests of memory and other thinking skills; and brain scans. Periodically administered, scans such as CT scans or magnetic resonance imaging can show the death of brain cells, one possible sign of Alzheimer's disease.

The only definite sign of Alzheimer's is excess buildup in the brain of the protein beta-amyloid. Until now, doctors have been able to check for this only after a patient's death, by autopsy. Last year, a team that included VA scientists reported advances in viewing these amyloid plaques in the brains of live patients, using a radioactive tracer and positron emission tomography. This technology may make it easier to test new treatments for Alzheimer's.

**Treatment.** No cure yet exists for Alzheimer's. Only a few medications temporarily slow the decline, such as tacrine and donepezil. Other drugs may be used to help control insomnia, anxiety and other symptoms that accompany Alzheimer's.

Research also has confirmed the benefits of certain natural agents in treating ➔ *continued next page*



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**[Alzheimer's]** age-related cognitive decline. These include the herb ginkgo biloba and the nutritional supplement phosphatidylserine, a substance found in cell membranes. Some studies suggest that vitamin E, too, may help slow Alzheimer's.

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs show promise. Inflammation may be part of how Alzheimer's damages the brain. Researchers at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System recently used ibuprofen to reduce protein deposits in the brains of mice with Alzheimer's disease.

While biomedical researchers continue to search for more effective treatments, psychologists and other Alzheimer's specialists work on improving the lives of patients in other ways – for example, through designing therapeutic living environments that promote orientation and reduce the safety risks of wandering, a common behavior in Alzheimer's patients. Care teams also focus on supporting family members, whose role can be physically, emotionally and financially draining.

**Research.** VA scientists are on the leading edge of efforts to pinpoint the exact causes – genetic, environmental or viral – and identify a cure for Alzheimer's disease. One exciting example of their progress comes from San Diego, where VA researchers and colleagues used gene therapy to deliver nerve growth factor to atrophied nerve cells in the brains of aging monkeys. The cells regained their normal appearance and function.

Also noteworthy is the opening of a new brain-imaging center at the San Francisco VA Medical Center. The center's MRI system is the most powerful of its kind, dedicated exclusively to studying neurodegenerative diseases. We trust this and other VA initiatives will help provide new hope for veterans and all Americans with Alzheimer's disease.

*Nelda P. Wray, M.D., M.P.H., is chief research and development officer for the Veterans Health Administration.*

## Cranberries fight heart disease

Based on human studies, researchers have found that drinking cranberry juice raises levels of "good cholesterol" in the blood and increases plasma antioxidants, reducing the risk of heart disease.

Their findings, the first long-term study of the effect of cranberry juice on cholesterol levels, were described at the 225th national meeting of the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society.

Previous studies have shown that cranberries can help prevent urinary tract infections and may reduce the risk of gum disease, stomach ulcers and cancer.

While overall cholesterol levels experienced no change, good cholesterol – high-density lipoprotein, or HDL – appeared to significantly increase by an average of 10 percent after three servings of cranberry juice per day. Based on known epidemiological data on heart disease, this increase

corresponds to an approximate 40-percent reduction in heart-disease risk.

Plasma antioxidant capacity, a measure of total antioxidants available for the body, increased as much as 121 percent after two or three servings of juice per day. Like elevated levels of good cholesterol, increased antioxidant levels also are associated with a decreased risk of heart disease.

The current study underscores government health recommendations that people should eat more fruits and vegetables to help maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle.

Source: American Chemical Society, (800) 227-5558

*Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their personal physicians when they have health problems.*

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# American Legion launches 'Support Our Troops' Web site

Responding to public interest, The American Legion recently unveiled a new section of its Internet Web site that answers the question, "How can I show support to our troops?"

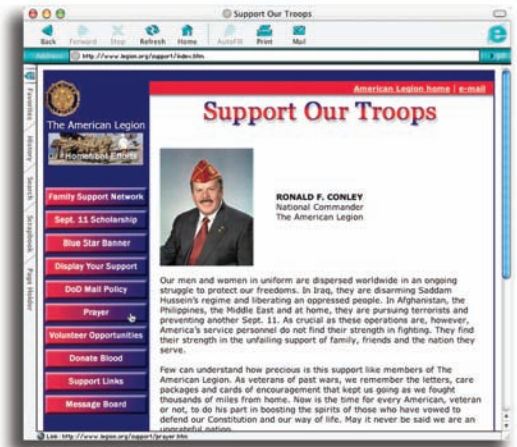
By clicking on the "Support Our Troops" link at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org), visitors can discover ways to reach out to U.S. servicemembers and their families through prayer, volunteer opportunities, blood donations and scholarship contributions.

Available on the Web site are links to purchase U.S. Flags, Blue Star Banners and yard signs to display support for U.S. troops. Visitors also will find suggestions for how one's place of worship can support servicemembers, as well as a message board where personal letters and thank-you notes can be posted to the men and women on the front lines. Volunteer opportunities and agencies collecting blood for the military are listed, along with links to other sites supporting our armed forces.

Visitors to the site also can learn about the Legion's Family Support Network, a program providing crucial aid to spouses and children of military personnel. Through the Family Support Network, local Legion posts adopt military families by helping pay bills and providing child care and other services.

The site also describes the Legion's Sept. 11 Memorial Scholarship Fund, a program that provides higher-education opportunities for the children of active-duty servicemembers killed on or after Sept. 11, 2001, including those engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"It seems few truly understand how precious this type of support is to our men and women in uniform," American Legion National Commander Ronald F. Conley said. "As veterans of past wars, we remember the letters, care packages



and cards of encouragement that kept us going as we fought thousands of miles from home. Now is the time for every American, veteran or not, to play a role in boosting the spirits of those who defend our Constitution and our way of life – even at the expense of theirs.

"May it never be said we are an ungrateful nation."

## Join us!

The American Legion is an organization of veterans serving veterans, their families and communities. The Legion serves as the veteran's voice in Washington, fighting for the benefits and rights of those who served our country in the armed forces.

Membership eligibility is based upon dates set forth by Congress. Eligibility dates are from 4/6/17 to 11/11/18; 12/7/41 to 12/31/46; 6/25/50 to 1/31/55; 2/28/61 to 5/7/75; 8/24/82 to 7/31/84; 12/20/89 to 1/31/90; and from 8/2/90 to present.

### For membership information:

The American Legion  
Attn: Membership Division  
P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055

**Call toll-free:** (800) 433-3318

**E-mail:** [ia@legion.org](mailto:ia@legion.org)

### Visit the Web site:

[www.legion.org/membership/membership.htm](http://www.legion.org/membership/membership.htm)

### For information about affiliate organizations:

#### Sons of The American Legion

John Kerestan, (317) 630-1321

#### The American Legion Auxiliary

Membership, (317) 955-3845

## Americans urged to thank military

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi urges Americans to sign special thank-you notes to the men and women of the U.S. military. The notes are available on the Internet at [www.defendamerica.mil](http://www.defendamerica.mil). The site is maintained by the Department of Defense.

"Whether deployed to the Middle East, serving shipboard in the Indian Ocean or supporting operations at hundreds of facilities around the world," Principi said, "the men and women of our armed services need to know that we understand and value their contributions to the security of our nation and the well-being of every American."

Approximately 4.5 million Americans already have visited the DoD Web site.

DefendAmerica.mil is the Defense Department's official Web site for news about the war on terrorism. The site provides coverage of top national-security leaders, information on weapons and equipment, personality profiles and human-interest features.

DefendAmerica.mil's online thank-you note was posted in May 2002 during Military Appreciation Month.



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# Ceremonial bugle offers reliable alternative

The National Defense Authorization Act for the 2000 fiscal year directed the playing of “Taps” at veterans’ military funerals, preferably by a live bugler. If none is available, a quality-recorded version may be used. Families of deceased service-members have long expressed the desire for live buglers and a distaste for the use of tape recorders and CD players. However, with more than 1,800 veterans dying each day and only 500 buglers accessible through the Department of Defense, live buglers aren’t available for all services.

To address this issue, DoD turned to technology to develop the ceremonial bugle. The ceremonial bugle is not intended to replace nor substitute for a live bugler if one is available. Instead, it provides a dignified alternative to CDs and cassettes.

The ceremonial instrument con-

sists of a real bugle equipped with a small device inserted deep into the bugle’s bell. The device plays a high-quality recorded version of “Taps,” taken from the 1999 Memorial Day service at Arlington National Cemetery. The resonating



## More info

Contact Mark Ward or Charles Crawford:

**4000 Defense Pentagon  
Room 2E319  
Washington, DC 20301**

**(703) 614-4074 or (703) 693-6185**

**mark.ward@osd.mil or  
charles.crawford@osd.mil**

tones inside the bugle create a realistic horn quality. The device has an on-off switch, an indicator light for low battery, and adjustable volume settings ranging from a muted indoor tone to an outdoor version that aptly competes with traffic and aircraft sounds.

Missouri was selected to test the bugle because of its well-established state-run Military Funeral Honors program. The Department of Defense provided Missouri with 50 prototype bugles for distribution to military units, honor teams and veterans service organizations, including 10 American Legion posts. The

test period ran for six months beginning in November. During the test, families and honor-guard members were surveyed. Based on collected data, DoD will decide whether or not to expand the program. Use of ceremonial bugles during military funerals requires full knowledge and consent of the families involved.

“Because of our robust Military Funeral Honors program in Missouri, we have a keen interest in finding the best method of presentation, especially the playing of “Taps,” retired Army Col. Wayne Medley, Director of Missouri’s MFH program said. “CD players are sensitive to weather conditions, humidity and temperatures, and that can cause problems. As long as you provide routine maintenance on the bugle, we’ve found the bugles very reliable in all weather conditions and temperatures. It’s amazing. Even though the music is digital, the sound is very close to the real thing.”

Because the ceremonial bugler performs all the motions of a live bugler, the visual effect is realistic. “The visual aspects of having a bugler present gives more of a professional quality to the ceremony,” Medley said. “Comments from servicemembers’ families have all been positive.”

# CLL added to list of Vietnam War illnesses

Chronic lymphocytic leukemia, or CLL, has been added to the list of diseases for which Vietnam War veterans can receive health care and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs. National Commander Ronald F. Conley praised the administration for awarding the benefits but added, “I’d like to see an end to the government’s piecemeal approach to studying the illnesses of Vietnam War veterans.”

Based on an Institute of Medicine study that shows a link between CLL and exposure to the dioxin-laced herbicide Agent Orange, VA Secre-

tary Anthony Principi announced recently that the government will extend benefits to Vietnam veterans suffering from CLL.

“It is clearly the right thing to do, and we are pleased that the IOM has been fulfilling its technical advisory role with diligence,” Conley said. “It’s too bad that these veterans will wait another year or so to receive their benefits because of the government’s drawn-out procedures and because no comprehensive study of the health problems affecting Vietnam veterans is yet planned or funded.

“The American Legion and Co-

lumbia University jointly studied the health of Vietnam veterans in the 1980s and, more recently, in a follow-up study. We’re finding serious enduring effects of the Vietnam experience. But we need a bigger study, one specifically focused on herbicides, if we are going to get at the truth and accelerate the provision of VA health care and just compensation to sick veterans of the Vietnam War. It takes the government so long to scientifically prove what we all suspect: that certain veterans’ illnesses are related to Agent Orange or other hazardous battlefield conditions.”



## PDC appointed to CARES Commission

Past Department of Ohio Commander and Korean War Navy veteran Robert A. Ray was recently appointed to the Department of Veterans Affairs' Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Service Commission.

The commission will play a major role in determining what course VA takes after the data from its CARES study is completed. The CARES study is supposed to realign the use of VA properties to provide the space and resources to serve the health-care needs of veterans between 2010 to 2022.

Several prominent Legionnaires were nominated by American Legion National Commander Ronald F. Conley, each based on the criteria of having recognized professional credentials as well as knowledge of the VA health-care delivery system. VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi chose Ray, who served as Ohio's department commander from 1991 to 1992. Ray is a 37-year Legion member and a retired engineer from the Ford Motor Co. Ray also volunteers at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center.

Conley applauded the secretary's choice and said he considers it essential to have veterans service organizations represented on the CARES Commission.

Ray joined the Navy in 1954

and served on the USS *Steinaker*, DD 863, from 1955 to 1957 and earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1964. He was hired by Ford in 1966 and worked 30 years before retiring in

1996 as a senior manufacturing engineer.

Ray and his wife, Donna, reside in Milford, Ohio, and have seven children. A member of Post 69 in Reading, Ohio, he has served in several positions within the Department of Ohio, including county and

district commander and vice president of the National Convention Corporation for the 1986 National Convention in Cincinnati.



Robert A. Ray, center, was nominated by National Commander Ronald F. Conley, left, and appointed to the national CARES Commission by VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi, right. *James V. Carroll*

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## American Legion National Conventions

St. Louis	Aug. 22-28, 2003
Nashville, Tenn.	Aug. 27-Sept. 2, 2004
Honolulu	Aug. 19-25, 2005
Salt Lake City	Aug. 18-24, 2006
Reno, Nev.	Aug. 24-30, 2007



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## How to Submit a Reunion

The *American Legion Magazine* publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades Editor, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org).

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

## Other Notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a

contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades Editor, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org). The magazine will not publish the names of individuals, only the name of the unit from which you seek people. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

## AIR FORCE

**1st Radio Relay Sqdn**, Biloxi, MS, 9/3-6, William Hayton, (304) 486-5349, [falcon1hayton@webtv.net](mailto:falcon1hayton@webtv.net); **2nd Schweinfurt Memorial Assn (WWII)**, Seattle, 10/11-15, Arvid Dahl, (253) 853-5409, [arv246@aol.com](mailto:arv246@aol.com); **11th CDS ALTUS**, Las Vegas, 6/6-8, Skip Bateman, (321) 454-7363; **19th Bomb Grp/Wing**, **14th, 28th, 30th, 38th, 93rd & 435th Sqdns**, Portland, OR, 9/30-10/4, Jerry Michael, (317) 253-9265, [g.michael@sbcglobal.net](mailto:g.michael@sbcglobal.net); **47th Bomb Wing Assn**, Tucson, AZ, 10/15-19, Charlie Palmer, (907) 332-0296; **48th FS, FIS & FTS**, Branson, MO, 10/22-27, Joe Onesty, (562) 431-2901, [jonesty2@juno.com](mailto:jonesty2@juno.com); **51st FIW (1950-1956)**, Omaha, NE, 9/5-7, Gene Zenk, (712) 263-4580, [hesszenk@frontier.net](mailto:hesszenk@frontier.net); **59th Med Grp**, Knoxville, TN, 10/24-27, Harry Braud, (318) 746-5139, [hairybroad@cs.com](mailto:hairybroad@cs.com); **317th TCW**, Dayton, OH, 9/25-28, Jim Timmons, [jimt0708@aol.com](mailto:jimt0708@aol.com); **368th Ftr Grp 9th AF (WWII)**, Atlanta, 10/30-11/2, Randolph Goulding, (678) 333-0241

**416th Bomb Grp (L) 9th AF**, Branson, MO, 8/22-25, Ralph Conte, (573) 817-9247; **433rd FIS**, Madison, WI, 10/5-7, Tom Krob, (847) 587-2994; **460th Bomb Grp 15th AF (WWII, Italy)**, Minneapolis, 9/4-7, Donald Aalbers, (952) 884-9169, [mardonaal@aol.com](mailto:mardonaal@aol.com); **475th Ftr Grp**, Spokane, WA, 8/23-31, Dale Thisted, (509) 458-3214, [twoflyers@attbi.com](mailto:twoflyers@attbi.com); **3454th Tech Tng Sqdn**, Branson, MO, 9/4-6, Bill Donahoo, (970) 454-2236, [brndonahoo@worldnet.att.net](mailto:brndonahoo@worldnet.att.net); **Mobile Aerial Port Sqdn**, Wheeling, WV, 7/25-27, Mark Bishop, (304) 243-9572, [abishone@aol.com](mailto:abishone@aol.com); **OCS 51 Baker**, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/25-27, Dona Hildebrand, (719) 481-3866; **Veterinary Serv Assn**, Sparks, NV, 9/8-9, Larry Kerkow, (210) 658-1557, [rgolfr@aol.com](mailto:rgolfr@aol.com)

## ARMY

**2nd Chem Mortar Bn 461st Inf Bn**, Branson, MO, 9/24-28, William R. Thomas, (972) 387-1247, [jnickerson@capitalsouthwest.com](mailto:jnickerson@capitalsouthwest.com); **3rd Army 12th Corp Arty HQ Btry**, Williamsburg, VA, 9/26-28, Sharon Kresser, (863) 357-0438; **3rd Inf Rgt "The Old Guard Assn,"** Arlington, VA, 9/17-21, Brett Reistad, (703) 361-1730; **4th Inf "Ivy" Div**, Killeen, TX, 9/7-14, Gregory Rollinger, (651) 322-5736; **5th Armd Div**, Columbus, OH, Sept, Will Cook, (419) 739-9677, [wcsad@bright.net](mailto:wcsad@bright.net); **12th Evac Hosp (Vietnam)**, San Antonio, 11/12-14, Richard Harder, (210) 657-3526, [richarder@mymailstation.com](mailto:richarder@mymailstation.com); **19th Cbt Eng Rgt (WWII)**, Collinsville, IL, 9/25-28, Debra King, (618) 939-5213; **24th Inf Div**, Tucson, AZ, 9/18-21, Howard Bruno, (520) 327-2125, [bruno1916@juno.com](mailto:bruno1916@juno.com); **48th Ftr Grp 493rd Ftr Sqdn (WWII)**, Branson, MO, 9/25-28, Jacob L. Cooper, (716) 633-6056, [jco0128@51stchemco.com](mailto:jco0128@51stchemco.com); **51st Chem Co (Karlruhe, Germany, 1956-1958)**, Wildwood Crest, NJ, 9/19-21, Lou Stark, (315) 454-8979, [tonayonko@cs.com](mailto:tonayonko@cs.com)

**51st Gen Hosp**, Branson, MO, 10/13-16, Joe Rusciollelli, (217) 629-9883; **51st Sig Bn**, Dallas, 9/9-11, Tommy Thompson, (214) 670-6322, [tom@itexas.net](mailto:tom@itexas.net); **84th Inf Div Railsplitter Society (WWII)**, Warwick, RI, 8/23-26, Bill Almeida, (401) 433-2183; **90th Div Assn**, St. Louis, 8/14-17, James R. Reid, (630) 789-0204, [reids@90thdivisionassoc.org](mailto:reids@90thdivisionassoc.org); **91st Chem Mortar Bn**, Springfield, OH, 10/2-4, Jonathan Tutwiler, (304) 496-7264; **91st MP Bn 289th, 560th &**

**563rd MP Cos (Pusan, Korea, 1952-1954)**, Birch Run, MI, 7/25-27, Bob Simon, (989) 792-3718, [robsimonfarms@aol.com](mailto:robsimonfarms@aol.com); **97th Div 303rd Inf 2nd Bn**, Cleveland, 9/4-7, George Novak, (440) 843-6445, [gbnovak3582@aol.com](mailto:gbnovak3582@aol.com); **97th Inf Div 322nd Med Bn**, Branson, MO, 9/19-21, Barney Jereb, (440) 943-4394, [jjj.golfer@att.net](mailto:jjj.golfer@att.net); **104th Inf Div (WWII) Nat'l Timberwolf Assn**, Costa Mesa, CA, 8/25-9/1, Jim Henderson, (415) 897-7030; **145th FA**, Spanish Fork, UT, 8/23, Dale Barney, (801) 798-6755; **148th Ord MVA Co (WWII)**, Davenport, IA, 9/22-26, Jerome Paulson, (712) 867-4432, [jercol@webtv.net](mailto:jercol@webtv.net); **153rd Eng Const Bn**, Somerset, PA, Aug, John Mantini, (814) 479-4406; **187th AHC (Fort Bragg & Vietnam, 1966-1972)**, Dallas, 11/8-12, George Grabenstetter, (804) 642-6406, [gegrabenstetter@prodigy.net](mailto:gegrabenstetter@prodigy.net); **231st Eng Cbt Bn C Co**, Lake Metigoshe, ND, 7/12-13, Gordon O. Christenson, (701) 838-6572, [bdc@ndak.net](mailto:bdc@ndak.net); **242nd FA Bn**, Kearney, NE, 8/17, C.R. Anthony, (308) 324-2791, [anthonyfarm@cozadtel.net](mailto:anthonyfarm@cozadtel.net)

**260th Arty Grp 260th, 340th & 380th AA CA AAA (WWII & Korea)**, Silver Spring, MD, 10/18, E. Wayne Brizendine, (301) 770-7876; **264th FA Bn (WWII)**, Florence, KY, 9/5-7, Bob Latz, (330) 493-4657, [favet@mindspring.com](mailto:favet@mindspring.com); **300th Field Hosp**, Kingston, PA, 7/12, John P. Pliska, (570) 457-8578, [john.pliska@evenlink.com](mailto:john.pliska@evenlink.com); **376th Heavy Bomb Grp**, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/24-28, Robert E. Lehnher, (253) 854-2415, [robertelehnher@msn.com](mailto:robertelehnher@msn.com); **403rd Trans Co (1966-1972)**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 9/26-30, Ed Comer, (765) 662-1834, [badboysdoit@edcomer.com](mailto:badboysdoit@edcomer.com); **434th, 435th, 532nd, 900th AA 473rd Inf Rgt**, Ypsilanti, MI, 8/28-31, LeRoy D. Good, (765) 659-1256; **503rd MP Bn (Fort Bragg, NC, Mar 1951-Mar 1953)**, Springfield, IL, 9/12-14, William McCartney, (217) 285-2999; **504th MP Bn**, Asheville, NC, 8/21-23, Rick Hughes, (352) 481-2559; **558th FA Bn Patton's 3rd Army (WWII)**, Las Vegas, 9/21-23, Dave Rifkin, (702) 616-3871, [drifkin@lvcv.com](mailto:drifkin@lvcv.com)

**625th Eng Light Equip Co**, Effingham, IL, 9/27-28, Duane Majors, (618) 644-5552; **712th Trans Railway Operating Bn (Korea, WWII)**, Branson, MO, 9/17-21, Robert Shannon, (910) 949-3920, [rshannon@ac.net](mailto:rshannon@ac.net); **787th MP Bn**, Bellevue, OH, 9/8-11, Harry Rinehart, (215) 855-2928, [ikesnowball@netcarrier.com](mailto:ikesnowball@netcarrier.com); **801st Eng Bn**, Niagara Falls, NY, 9/16-19, Bill Dowd, (563) 569-8291, [sjdowd@rdonnect.com](mailto:sjdowd@rdonnect.com); **945th FA Bn**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 9/18-21, George A. Buck, (515) 255-4269; **1019th Eng Treadway Bridge Co**, Corning, NY, 10/21-25, Richard Blackey, (727) 586-2790, [rblackey@aol.com](mailto:rblackey@aol.com); **Cbt Tracker Teams (Vietnam)**, El Paso, TX, 6/19-22, Charles E. Steward, (915) 591-9193, [c.steward@worldnet.att.net](mailto:c.steward@worldnet.att.net); **G Co 119th Inf 30th Div**, Chattanooga, TN, 9/18-20, Jack Mace, (770) 590-7945; **Phu Loi Recon Patrol**, Petriola, CA, 8/9-10, Michael Swingle, (908) 232-1918, [phuloipatrol@aol.com](mailto:phuloipatrol@aol.com); **Phulam Sig Bn**, San Antonio, 9/11-14, Ronald Chronister, (717) 792-9485, [angelvet@blazenet.net](mailto:angelvet@blazenet.net); **Society of the 5th Inf Div**, Waco, TX, 8/28-31, Robert Rochell, (254) 420-1891, [rochell@msn.com](mailto:rochell@msn.com); **X Corps Spec Ops Co GHQ 1st Raider Co 8245 Army Unit**, Chattanooga, TN, 9/9-11, J.E. Ballow, (217) 546-7168, [bballow@motion.net](mailto:bballow@motion.net);

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## NAVY

**18th Spec Seabees**, Holland, MI, 9/19-21, R.L. Shinsky, (616) 399-2513, [rlshinsky@novagate.com](mailto:rlshinsky@novagate.com); **63rd NCB**, Madison, WI, 9/21-24, John E. Morris, (262) 569-0770, [63rdseabees@ameritech.net](mailto:63rdseabees@ameritech.net); **Dest Div 38 USS Gillespie DD 609, USS Hobby DD 610, USS Kalk DD 611 & USS Welles DD 628**, Washington, 8/27-30, Bob Miller, (828) 692-5520, [ram728@webtv.net](mailto:ram728@webtv.net); **Escort Carrier Sailors & Airmen Assn**, Norfolk, VA, 9/14-17, John Smith, (515) 289-1467, [wsjpauli@aol.com](mailto:wsjpauli@aol.com); **K West B East (Stewards & Mess Attendants)**, Las Vegas, 9/25-28, John Green, (610) 638-1271; **Mail Serv Vets**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 9/28-10/3, John Smerdon, (415) 333-6865, [bjmsmerdon@aol.com](mailto:bjmsmerdon@aol.com); **Nat'l Chief Petty Officers Assn**, Honolulu, 10/8-12, William A. Williams, (830) 537-4899; **Nat'l Sonar Assn**, San Diego, 9/10-14, Murry Katzen, (949) 588-7826, [mhkatzen@prodigy.net](mailto:mhkatzen@prodigy.net); **Project SHAD** Topeka, KS, 6/7-8, Homer Tack, (724) 287-8230, [hometack@yahoo.com](mailto:hometack@yahoo.com); **SS Haddo 225**, Reno, NV, 9/4-5, Harry Heffin, (817) 237-3614, [olie.heffin@att.net](mailto:olie.heffin@att.net)

**USS Amsterdam CL 101**, Bushkill, PA, 9/29-10/2, Leon Stewart, (610) 363-7977; **USS Attu CVE 102**, Branson, MO, 9/16-20, Marie Moore, (337) 762-4656; **USS Badger DE/FF 1071**, San Diego, 10/17-19, Patrick Winchester, (260) 691-1370, [patwin@mvyine.com](mailto:patwin@mvyine.com); **USS Basilan AG 68**, Milwaukee, 8/17-21, Arnold Dunbar, (863) 696-7881; **USS Beale DD/DDE 471**, Amana Colonies, IA, 7/25-27, Gayle Nelson, (310) 354-5124, [gayle-nelson@uiowa.edu](mailto:gayle-nelson@uiowa.edu); **USS Belleau Wood CVL 24**, Branson, MO, 9/29-10/3, Dick Freard, (727) 848-5409; **USS Bennington CV/CVA/CVS 20**, Baton Rouge, LA, 9/24-26, Stephen Leeds, (850) 484-9144, [shlsj@earthlink.net](mailto:shlsj@earthlink.net); **USS Big Black River LSMR 401**, Rapid City, SD,



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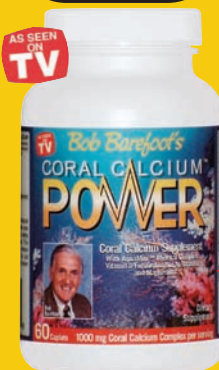
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- Flt 1197 (Lackland AFB, TX, Oct-Dec 1952), Daniel Grimsley, (910) 371-2017
- Flt 1416 (Sampson AFB, NY, Feb-April 1952), Robert Adams, (856) 825-0779, r918d@aol.com
- Gen Prison Branch Stockade Guard (Luzon, Philippines, 1946-1947), Harold J. Williams, (501) 753-1169
- HQ Co 3rd Bn 61st Inf Rgt 8th Inf Div (Fort Carson, CO, Mainz, Germany, & Fort Riley, KS, 1955-1962) James E. Barbe, (330) 889-2117, jimbo520@aol.com
- HQ & HQ Co 4th Bn 64th Armor 3rd Inf Div (1965-1968), Andrew Preston, (502) 348-7491, bet38pand42@aol.com
- HQ & Svc Co 96th Eng (Gen Svc Rgt, New Guinea, Philippines, 1944-1945), Bruce Bolden, (937) 393-2809
- HQ XXIV Corps (Spec Svcs Sect, Seoul, Korea, 1946-1948), Kelly Houts, (712) 276-1017, kellyh@cableone.net
- JASDF (Tsukui, Japan, Aug 1955-June 1957), John Wimmer, (304) 574-1247
- JUSMAG (Philippines, Apr 1961-July 1964), Omer "Bud" Rimmer, (757) 229-3242, ohr0173@aol.com
- K Co 3rd Bn 5th Rgt 1st Mar Div (Vietnam, Aug 1966-Aug 1967), David Rangler, (352) 475-9558
- K Co 87th Inf Rgt 10th Inf Div (Fort Riley, KS, Mar 1953), Lawrence Goga, (763) 595-9188, l-k-goga@attbi.com
- Keesler Field (Basic Tng, Biloxi, MS, Jan-June 1944), Richard Devlin, (513) 221-4882
- MACS-9 (Santa Ana, CA, Japan, & Chu Lai, Vietnam, Oct 1963-Oct 1965), Tom Boyle, (319) 366-0012, tboyle621@aol.com
- Mar Guard Co (Mar Barracks NAS Patuxent River, MD, 1948-1951), Joe Pannick, (570) 346-5643
- MCB-5 STAT Teams 0506-0508 (Vietnam & Thailand), Ted Smith, (207) 268-4289, tedco0506@juno.com
- MSTS Basketball Team (Yokohama, Japan, 1951-1953), Glenn E. Dexter, (270) 443-7065
- NAF Lajes Field, Terceira, Azores (1957-1959), Fred Carrico, (574) 272-8037
- NAF Naha, Okinawa (1960-1961), Richard Mehlhaff, (541) 784-1120
- NAS Barbers Point, HI (Internal Sec, 1957-1960), John W. Watkins, (915) 465-4297, johnwatkins@mailstation.com
- NAS Corpus Christi Sqd 15 (June 1941), Claire Gene Englehardt, (407) 277-3677
- NAVCOMFACPHIL (Sangley Point, Philippines, 1952-1954), Jess Brooks, (620) 662-5546, msbrooks@ourtownusa.net
- NAVSCOLEO Grads, Gerald C. Evans, (702) 558-3541, jevans18@juno.com
- Navy Argus Unit 15 (Tinian, July-Sept 1944), James O'Neill, 31 Adamston Drive, Brocktown, NJ 08723, mvalentinej@cs.com
- Navy Crash Crew (Argentina, Newfoundland, 1952-1953), Stanley Frederick, (641) 322-4476
- Opn Deep Freeze II, III, IV COMNAVSPFOR Antarctica (Washington DC, & Christchurch, New Zealand), Robert Williams, (651) 437-6482, ehwo@aol.com
- Opn Project SHAD (Hawaii, 1964-1966), Raymond Johnson, 37286 Meredith Drive, Lebanon, OR 97355, rjohnson43@hotmail.com
- Phu Loi Recon Patrol (Vietnam, Aug 1967-July 1970), Michael Swingle, (908) 232-1918, phuloipatrol@aol.com
- Pit 77 MCRD San Diego (1943), Wesley M. Rush, (217) 446-2327, ltcolwes@aol.com
- Pit 203 L Co 2nd Bn (MCRD Parris Island, SC, Jan-Apr 1959), Clair Runkle, 125 Brandon Drive, Dallastown, PA 17313, crunkle@suscom.net
- Pit 216 (MCRD Parris Island, SC, Mar-June 1963), John Whalen, (203) 732-5068, jmwhalen@military.com
- Pit 3064 (Parris Island, SC, Dec 1968-Feb 1969), Kenneth Green, (215) 248-4999, kgreen@state.pa.us
- PT Boats, Bases & Tenders (WWII), Duane Renville, (701) 549-2691
- RAF Baseball Team (Molesworth "Moles," England, 1956), R.E. Morgan, 143 Fox Hill Lane, Fairmont, WV 26554, remorganwv@aol.com
- Seabee STAT Teams 0506 and 0508 (Vietnam & Thailand, 1964-1966), Ted Smith, (207) 268-4289, tedco0506@juno.com
- SS Chippana (Feb-Aug 1942), James Gailey, (336) 674-2121
- SS Edward D. White (USN Armed Guard, 1943-1945), Roger L. Schmuck, (321) 253-1861
- SS Kokomo Victory (Jan-Aug 1945), Ray Erno, (518) 237-3524
- SS Martin Van Buren (Jan 1945), P. Ken Gignac, (508) 359-2742
- SS Newton D. Baker (May-Dec 1944), Ray Erno, (518) 237-3524
- SS Sea Porpoise (USN Armed Guard, Summer 1944), D.H. Stormo, (601) 587-2269, badwwo@telepak.net
- SS Walt Whitman (Nov 1943-Feb 1945), Bill Glenfield, (732) 892-6291, jrzyshor@aol.com
- Standard Landing Craft Unit 34, (Ulithi, Atoll, 1944-1945), John F. Betz, (562) 431-7759
- Svc Co 8th Cav Rgt 1st Cav Div (Camp Crawford & Hokkaido, Japan, Dec 1952-Dec 1954), Allan Sanderson, (319) 283-4043, asanderson@trxing.com
- US Army DEML Stat Complement (Fort Lincoln, ND, Feb-Aug 1941), Frank L. Onufay, 1423 Main St., Williston, ND 58801
- US Disciplinary Barracks & US Correctional Activ, Calvin Jetton, (703) 780-6385
- USCGC Boone WPC 335, Harlan F. Laclair, 35 Hillside Ave., Bristol, NH 03222, hlaclair@earthlink.net
- USCG Reliance (Alameda, CA, or San Francisco, July 1945-Mar 1946), Barbara Culbertson, (203) 294-1830
- USN Sep Ctr San Diego (June 1963-Jan 1965), Mike Gillain, tmn@radiks.net
- USN Sub Base 3002 (Subic Bay, Philippines, Oct 1946-July 1947), Jim Bradshaw, (503) 363-3963, jimcbusa@aol.com
- USS Aludra AF 55 (Korea), Marion Basso, mlbasso2@madisonelco.com
- USS Blair DE 147 (1943-1945), Charles Wissler, (760) 796-4818, chuckwissler@aol.com
- USS Bon Homme Richard CVA 31 Heli Cbt Support Sqdn One Det 31 (Jan 1966-Jan 1969), Irving DeWald, (815) 634-7406, idewald@msn.com
- USS Bon Homme Richard CVA 31 X Div (Jan 1961-June 1963), Mike Gillain, tmn@radiks.net
- USS Cacapon AO 52 (1943-1973), Harold E. Byrd, (909) 765-0500, byrdhouse140@juno.com
- USS Compass Island EAG 153 (Brooklyn Navy Yard, June 1959-June 1962), James Jirschele, (715) 384-7584
- USS Eldorado AGC 11 (QM "N" Div, 1952-1954), Ralph M. Rice Jr., P.O. Box 794, Ingleside, TX 78362
- USS Entemedor SS 340 (All Years), Frank Hill, (812) 936-2892, retired@smithville.net
- USS Fort Snelling LSD 30 (1st & 2nd Divs, 1966-1968), Wayne Schipper, (712) 546-7026
- USS Franklin D. Roosevelt CVA 42 (Vietnam, 1966-1967), Gary Kerchal, 1535 N. D St., Broken Bow, NE 68822
- USS Gen. T.H. Bliss AP 131 (Jan 1944-June 1945), Bob "Swede" Carlson, P.O. Box 188, Thief River Falls, MN 56701
- USS Gen. W.P. Richardson AP 118 "R" Div (1945), Robert Viera, 180 Adams St., Fairhaven, MA 02719
- USS Halfbeak SS 352 (1946-1971), Joe Hegyi, (219) 661-0715, sailor@jorsm.com
- USS Hocking APA 121 (Okinawa & Iwo Jima), Dan O'Keefe, (415) 453-6727
- USS Hoquiam PF 5 (1950-1951), Richard Van Hook, (585) 225-1739, r72van@aol.com
- USS Hughes DD 410 (Pacific, 1946), Donald Jenkins, (781) 891-9147
- USS Hull DD 945 (1958-1994), Neil Baliber, (818) 713-0686, ndbaliber@earthlink.net
- USS Isherwood DD 520 (San Diego, 1957-1960), Gil Brooks, (941) 755-0765
- USS LCI 328 (WWII), Frank Roberts, (262) 255-3735
- USS LCS (L) 109 (South Pacific, 1944-1946), Ernest Spenard, (207) 283-0081, espenard@maine.rr.com
- USS LCT 861 (Philippines, 1945), Andy Harwell, (919) 847-3719, aharwell@intrex.net
- USS LCT 1321 (1944-1946), Pete Nocks, (812) 926-3318, pnocks@aaahawk.com
- USS Logan APA 196 (Iwo Jima), Warren Bebee, (337) 582-3730
- USS LSM 19 (1945-1946), Darrell Foster, (941) 493-1469, fosterhome.1@juno.com
- USS LSM 105 (1945-1946), Darrell Foster, (941) 493-1469, fosterhome.1@juno.com
- USS LSM 207, Laverne Mertz, (970) 586-9669, lrmomaestp@aol.com
- USS LSM 228 (South Pacific, 1944-1945), Richard J. Gannon, (518) 827-5801, clyde@midtel.net
- USS LSM 256 (1944-1946), H.A. Howell, (540) 343-0546



USS LST 52, George Lieberman, (845) 462-2706, yushan@mycidco.com

USS LST 677 (Pacific, 1944-1946), Gerald F. Brindle, (814) 658-3340, plow@hasd.tiu.k12.pa.us

USS LST 680 (Pacific, 1944-1946), Gerald F. Brindle, (814) 658-3340, plow@hasd.tiu.k12.pa.us

USS LST 1123, Bill Wernecke, (410) 252-1939, billkathwern@aol.com

USS Lyra AK 101 (June 1943-Jan 1946), Hubert Kosub, (210) 649-2023

USS Manitowoc LST 1180 (Jan 1984-June 1987), Louis Paolicelli, goo91365@comcast.net

USS Massey DD 778 (1961-1964), Bob Bowling, blb1943@yahoo.com

USS Melvin DD 680 (Hawaii, 1945), Donald Jenkins, (781) 891-9147

USS Norfolk DL 1 (1962-1963), Rodolfo Castelo, rcast11960@aol.com

USS Oklahoma City CLG 5 1st & 2nd Divs (Sept 1960-Sept 1961), Ken Bazar, (702) 558-5033, ken@uniforms.net

USS Omaha CL 4 (WWII), Harry A. Smalling, 614 Passaic Ave., Clifton, NJ 07012, gramptara@yahoo.com

USS Pharris FF 1094 (Oct 1977-Sept 1979), Jerry Greenwell, (207) 824-2532, jag@megalink.net

USS Preston DD 379 (Guadalcanal), Charles Meador, (318) 649-5335, meador@3g.quik.com

USS Princeton CVS 37 (R Div, Damage Control, 1955-1956), John W. Watkins, (915) 465-4297, johnwatkins@mailstation.com

USS Redpoll AMS 57 (1951-1959), Walt Jablonski, 30205 Greenboro St., Farmington Hills, MI 48334, jabo867@aol.com

USS Robert A. Owens DDE 827 (Nov 1960-Aug 1962), Jerry Greenwell, (207) 824-2532, jag@megalink.net

USS Safeguard ARS 25 (1969-1973), Danny Mackey, (580) 252-5651, mypickup@texhoma.net

USS Suisun AVP 53 (Formosa Straits, 1954), Olin D. Roland, (864) 226-8922

USS Talladega APA 208 (1960-1966), Joe Zook, (218) 763-3780, jkooz43@hotmail.com

USS Titania AKA 13 (Deck Crew, 1950-1952), Melford Turner, (816) 454-7078, mshitch@ev1.net

USS Vulcan AR 5 (Sept 1951-July 1952), John T. McIntyre, (913) 422-8275

USS Wagner DER 539 (1955-1956), Ed Bearse, (207) 483-2255, aleo@midmaine.com

USS Weber DE 675 (Spring 1944), William J. Donlen Jr., 389 Holly Drive, Levittown, PA 19055

USS Yellowstone AD 27 (Feb 1949-Aug 1951), John T. McIntyre, (913) 422-8275

VMA-121 Mar Air Grp 13 (Korea, 1951-1952), Robert Cook, (239) 561-2810

VF-22 (USS Lake Champlain, 1953), Jack A. Bailey, (757) 340-5922, charlies-son@email.msn.com

VJ-13 (1944-1945), Jim Burns, (772) 778-0358, jburns1646@cs.com

VQ-1 (Da Nang Airfield, Vietnam, Apr-Sept 1964), James McLean, (352) 583-2035

Yokota AFB, Japan (1977-1980), Ted Henderson, (320) 845-4068

## TAPS

Hazel A. Carlson, Dept. of Florida. Nat'l Rehab. Cmsn. Advisory Board Memb. 1954-1955, Nat'l Pilgrimage Cmte. Memb. 1963-1964, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1964-1966, Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1966-1967, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 1967-1969, Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Memb. 1982-1983 and Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1983-1998.

Lowell W. Feye, Dept. of Nebraska. Dept. Cmdr. 1983-1984 and Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1984-1985.

Sherman K. Foote Jr., Dept. of Missouri. Nat'l Aerospace Cmte. Consultant 1978-1981, Dept. Cmdr. 1981-1982 and Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1982-1988.

Thomas R. Jakmides, Dept. of Ohio. Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1983-1984, Nat'l Employment Cmte. Rep. 1988-1990, Dept. Cmdr. 1992-1993, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Memb. 1993-1997 and Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1997-2003.

Russell Shughart, Dept. of Kansas. Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1963-1964, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1965-1966 and Dept. Cmdr. 2002-2003.

Donald E. Snow, Dept. of Washington. Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 1965-1966, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post

Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1966-1967, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1975-1977, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1977-1978, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1977-1979, Nat'l Economic Cmsn. Liaison Memb. 1978-1979 and Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1979-1988.

Louis Steyskal, Dept. of Oregon. Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1968-1970, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1968-1972, Nat'l Veterans Preference Cmte. Memb. 1980-1982, Dept. Cmdr. 1983-1984, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Memb. 1985-1988 and Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1989-1990.

Frank H. Strong, Dept. of Missouri. Nat'l Aeronautics & Space Cmte. Memb. 1961-1962, Dept. Cmdr. 1964-1965, Nat'l Resolution Subcmte. Memb. 1966-1970, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1966-1970, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn.

Liaison Cmte. Chmn. 1967-1968, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Chmn. 1967-1968, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1968-1969, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1969-1970, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1970-1974, Nat'l Resolution Assignment Cmte. Memb. 1976-1980 and Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1979-1980.

John Zweisdak, Dept. of Pennsylvania. Nat'l Veterans Preference Cmte. Memb. 1968-1970 and 1976-1977, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1971-1974, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1976-1977, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1975-1978 and 1979-1986, Nat'l Rehab. Cmte. Advisory Board Memb. 1977-1978, Dept. Cmdr. 1979-1980 and Nat'l Constitution & By-Laws Cmte. Memb. 1979-1982.



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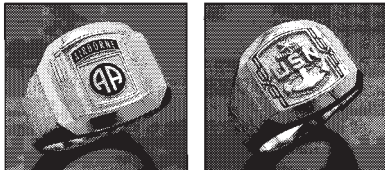
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## parting shots

"I don't know why people are surprised that France wouldn't help us get Saddam out of Iraq. After all, France wouldn't help us get the Germans out of France."

— Jay Leno

**A FATHER** looking over his son's report card said, "One thing is definitely in your favor. You couldn't possibly be cheating."

**A MAN STAGGERS** into an emergency room with a concussion, multiple bruises, two black eyes and a five iron wrapped tightly around his throat. Naturally, the doctor asks him what happened.

"Well," the man says, "it's like this. I was playing a quiet round of golf with my wife, when at a difficult hole, we both sliced our balls into a pasture of cows. We went to look for them, and while I was rooting around, I noticed one of the cows had something white on its rear end. I walked over and lifted up the tail, and sure enough, there was a golf ball with my wife's monogram on it — stuck right in the middle of the cow's butt. That's when I made my big mistake."

"What did you do?" the doctor asks.

"Well," the man replies, "I lifted



"Does this tell you how hard I've been working?"

the cow's tail and yelled to my wife, 'Hey, this looks like yours!' I don't remember much after that."

**YOU KNOW WHAT'S** wrong with this country? We remember the Alamo, we remember the *Maine* and we remember Pearl Harbor. When we win, we forget.

**A MAN WAS WATCHING** a fisherman at work. The fisherman caught a giant trout but threw it back into the river. Next the fisherman hooked a huge pike and threw it back. Finally the fisherman caught a little bass. He smiled and put it in his bag.

"Hey!" yelled the man who was watching. "Why did you throw back a giant trout and a huge pike and then keep a little bass?"

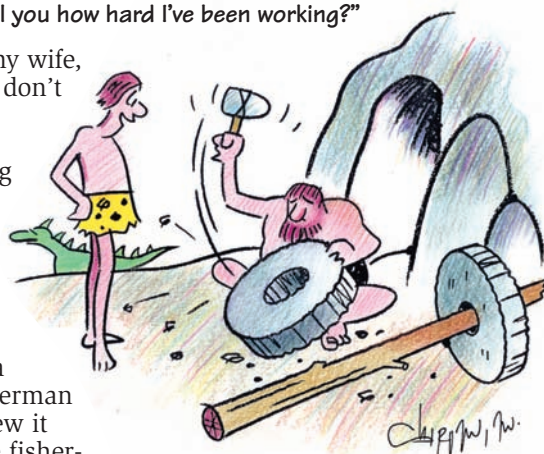
"Small frying pan," the fisherman yelled back.

**"ACTING IS NOT** an important job in the scheme of things. Plumbing is."

— Spencer Tracy

**A DEFENDING ATTORNEY** was cross-examining a coroner. The attorney asked, "Before you signed the death certificate, did you take the man's pulse?"

"No," the coroner replied.



"Whatever it is you're making, Dad, may I borrow it tonight?"

"Did you listen for a heartbeat?" the attorney asked.

"No."

"Did you check for signs of breathing?"

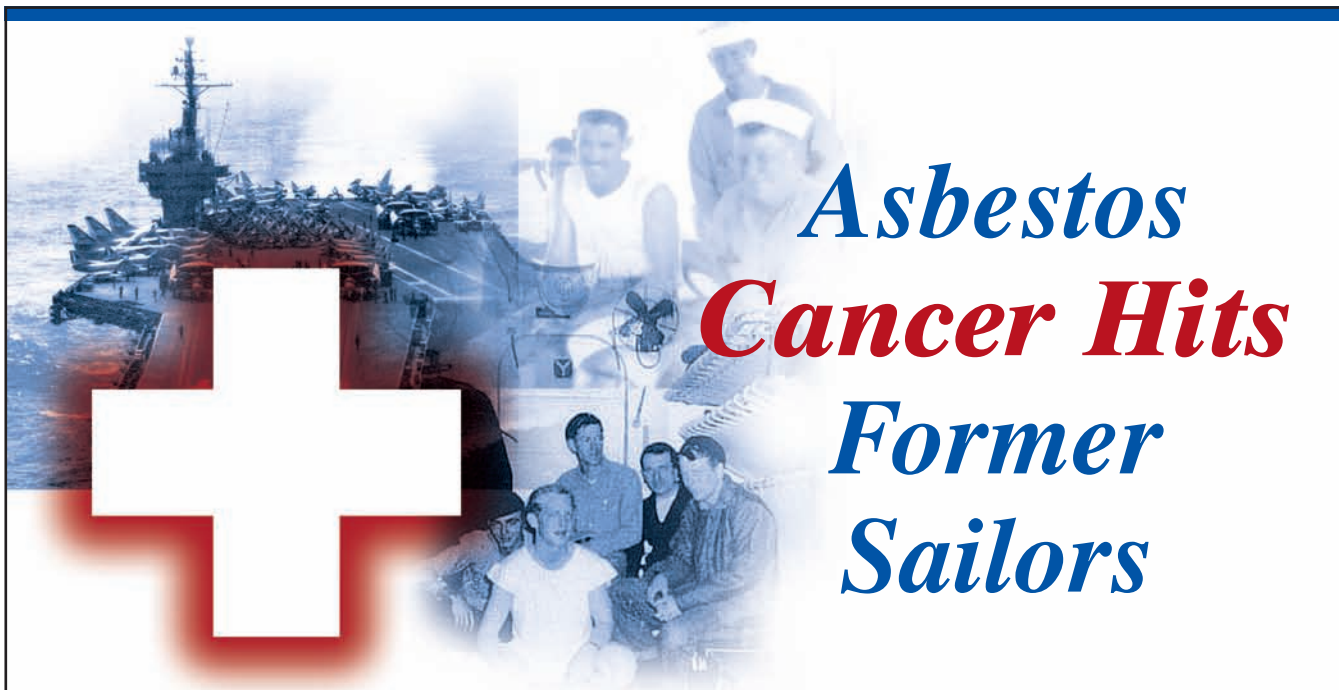
"No."

"So when you signed the death certificate, you had not taken any steps to make sure the man was dead, had you?"

The coroner, weary of the browbeating, said, "Well, let me put it this way: the man's brain was in a jar on my desk, but for all I know, he could be out practicing law somewhere."

**OPPORTUNITY ONLY KNOCKS** once, which means it would make a lousy Avon lady.





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